

# Brain Builder Bottles - All Ages

Small items contained in this toy could become a choking hazard if the lid comes off.  
Check the tape on the lid frequently and replace as needed.



## For Babies and Toddlers:

- Ask your baby to find different items in the bottle, for example “*can you find the duckie?*”
- Talk to your toddler about sounds that the animals in the bottle might make, “*what sound does a snake make? Sssssssssss*” “
- Make up a song using the bottle as a shaker, shake out a simple rhythm
- Find the birthday candle and pretend to blow it out “*pooooo*”
- Find an item and name it
- Have your baby try to imitate your actions: shaking the bottle, holding it high up or tapping it on a table
- Have your toddler move the bottle from far right to far left – do this for each hand
- Find the feather and pretend to tickle with it or blow on it



## For Preschoolers

- Find all the things that are red, yellow or blue
- Talk about an event in the child's life where an item was used or seen “*we had candles at Grandma's birthday*”
- Find an item and tell what goes with it (*cake goes with candle*)
- Play Simon Says :”*Hold the bottle over your head/in front of you*”
- Play hide and seek: Talk about where the bottle was hidden using words like *behind/beside/under/on top* etc)
- Ask your child to find an item by category “*Can you find all the animals?*”
- Draw a picture of one of the items you found
- Count items of a certain color (*red things*) or shape (*stars*)
- Find a picture in a book or magazine of one of the items in the bottle
- Count the things that are the same, “*how many beads can you find?*”
- Find an animal or bug in the bottle and talk about what sound it makes, what it eats, where it lives
- Talk about things that are the same and things that are different, what makes them the same and/or different



## For Kindergarten and Grade One

- Name an object and clap for each syllable in the word “*can-dle*” or “*bu-tter-fly*”
- Say the word in a sentence and clap for each word in the sentence “*I see beads*” (3)
- Count how many things are in the bottle with your child. Talk about ways to hold the bottle to make it easier to count.
- Talk about the things that are different, like buttons and stars, describe what makes them different
- Describe an item and see if your child can find it “*It's round and keeps your coat closed*”. Take turns.
- Ask the child to find an item by describing its parts or by how it tastes, feels or smells
- Find an item and list at least four things you could do with it
- Find an item and tell what sound it begins or ends with. What letter makes that sound?
- Find an item and make up a word that rhymes with it
- Find an item and see if you can find something similar in your home.



### **For Older Children**

- Have your older child describe an item and see if you can find it
- Make up a silly song about an item in the bottle
- Play charades and see if the other person can guess which item in the bottle you are acting out
- Name the item in another language if you can
- Spell the name of the item
- Write out a list of all the items you saw in the bottle. How many can you remember?
- Find an item and write or tell a story about it
- Find three items and make up a story about them.
- Find an item. How many other meanings does the word have? E.g. star as a noun (*that star is red*), as an adjective (*she is a star pupil*) or as a verb (*he will star in the movie*).

### **Learning with Playdough**

Playdough is easy to make and is a great learning tool for children of all ages. Playing with playdough is a great way to practice fine motor skills and strengthen children's hands and fingers. Have fun and let your imagination soar.

Things to do with playdough:

- ★ Squish and release a ball of playdough while holding it palm up in your hand. Repeat with other hand.
- ★ Roll a ball of playdough between both hands
- ★ Roll a ball of playdough around the table top
- ★ Flatten a ball of playdough by pounding it with side of fist or flat open palm. Switch hands
- ★ Talk about the color of the dough, the smell, how it feels in your hand
- ★ Roll small balls of dough into snakes, makes a "ssss" sound
- ★ Cut ropes or flat sheets of dough with scissors
- ★ Make small balls and arrange them according to size. Talk about biggest/smallest
- ★ Using the thumb and index finger, pinch off small pieces of playdough until it's all pinched apart
- ★ Make a face out of balls and snakes, make a happy face, a sad face, a surprised face 😊 and talk about when we feel that way
- ★ Use a straw, small cup or cookie cutter to cut shapes
- ★ Hide small objects such as beads, small toys in the playdough and have the child find them and pull them out using their 'pinchy' fingers (thumb and index finger).
- ★ Make a variety of shapes and designs out of playdough and have your child copy them. Make circles, squares, triangles, plus signs, mountains, X's.

#### ***For Older Children***

- ★ Make letters of the alphabet or numbers out of the playdough
- ★ Using a tool, print letters or words onto the playdough
- ★ Make an animal out of playdough. Make up a story about the animal

#### **Recipe for Kool- Aid Playdough**

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 pkgs sugar free kool-aid (or other powdered drink mix)
- 2 cups boiling water
- 3 tbsp oil



Add all ingredients together in mixing bowl. Stir with spoon, knead with hands. Refrigerate. Store in a plastic bag or container.