

A SENSORIAL EXERCISE

Variation to The Red Rods

Purposes: The child will have opportunity to:

1. Exercise observation and judgement
2. Exercise and refine visual discrimination of size & length
3. Exercise eye-hand coordination
4. Order a series on the basis of a particular attribute
5. Explore relationships of size and space through manipulation
6. Obtain physical experience of size as a basis for development of concepts and language
7. Explore and compare discrimination of sizes and lengths
8. Explore relationships bases on size and length

Prior Experience: Other block sets

Material: A set of 10 bamboo skewers of the same thickness. When put together, they closely resemble a stair.

Points of Interest:

- Carrying the tray to a workspace; either a table or a rug.
- The strategy of starting to place them in order; starting with the shortest stick first (and looking for the shortest remaining stick each time)
- Keeping the ends of the sticks aligned

Presentation:

1. Determine where the child will complete the work. Choose either a table or a set up a rug.
2. Show the child how to carry the tray with both hands firmly on either side of the tray; holding it steady.
3. Invite the child to help you take the bamboo sticks off of the tray one at a time, placing them on the table or rug in a random order.
4. Say: "I'm looking for the shortest stick."
5. Find the shortest and place it on the lower left of your workspace.
6. Say: "Now I'm looking for the shortest stick that is left."

7. Find the shortest among the sticks remaining. Place it above and nest to the first stick, so that the left ends are flush and even with the edge of the workspace.
8. Complete the stair this way.
9. Mix up the sticks again and invite the child to reconstruct the stair independently and call you when finished...
10. When the child is finished, show them how to replace the sticks onto the tray in a stair effect.
11. Remind them to hold the tray with both hands as they return the work back to its proper place on the shelf.

Control of Error:

- Definition of the workspace
- Increase in length of the objects in the series
- The adult

Variations/Extensions:

1. Build the stair starting with the longest stick
2. Build the stair vertically