

Bunches of Beads



..... *Structured Play*

Is an activity that is outcome based and usually adult-directed

VS.

..... *Unstructured*

Is an activity that is led by the child and having fun experiencing the activity

PLAY TIPS

Play that is unstructured, expressive and exploratory supports all areas of the child's development - this provides a foundation for later academic success.

Open-ended questions: Ask questions so children can describe and think about what they are doing. The questions we ask will help them think about approaching, planning, and extending their ideas.

Assessing feelings: How do you think...feels?

Making predictions: What will happen next?
Extend on thinking: What would happen if there were..?

Solving problems: What can you do about it?

Dyeing Pasta

Scan the QR code below for instructions!



Fun rainbow hair beading activity

Scan the QR code below for the activity!



Beading Station Ideas to try at Home

Bracelet or necklace construction station



Dyeing pasta



Open-ended Beading Creations

A Beading Station might also include:

- Different colours of beads
- Different sizes of beads
- Coloured pasta
- Shells
- Pipe cleaners
- String
- Letter beads
- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Buttons

Bead play supports development and learning in many areas

Social and Emotional:

Bead play lets children feel proud of their creation and is highly stimulating to a child's imagination, allowing them to explore and express their creativity in whichever way they like. A project that requires some degree of planning, such as making patterns from beads, choosing colors for a bracelet, or deciding what to make for a craft project, are all fantastic for helping children to develop their cognitive skills. Ask your child questions so they can describe, think and problem solve. Invite siblings or a friend to share in the play as an opportunity to teach cooperation and sharing.

Cognitive:

What style of necklace does the child want to make? What pattern will they choose? Where are all the materials needed to complete this beading activity? By answering these questions, the child develops his/her planning and problem-solving skills.

Fine Motor Skills:

Grasping: Various sizes of beads promote different grasps. Larger beads often promote the "3-jaw chuck" grasp, similar to holding a large pencil or marker. Smaller beads encourage children to use their pincer grasp, thus strengthening the small muscles of their hands.

Creativity and Imagination:

If more than one child is playing, encourage a game to see who can make a bracelet the fastest.

Make it Easier

Have a necklace or bracelet already started so that your child only needs to add a few beads on.