



Mystery Box



Type: Games Skills: Physical & Motor Skills, Play & Creativity, Social & Emotional Skills

Today's activity is a "Mystery Box" – a type of prediction game that you can create with simple items that you have at home.



What We Learn

Coping skills
Problem-solving skills
Language development
Early literacy skills

Supply List

Shoe box or cookie tin

How-To

Find a box, such as a shoe box, or any other kind of container which kids can't see through, such as a cookie tin. Introduce the empty box or tin and discuss how the mystery box game will be played. Outside of the children's view, place an item inside the box or tin. Ask the children to predict what is inside. If you want, you can let the children hold the box, to see how heavy it is or if it makes any noise bouncing around the box or tin.

Give the children one clue as to what is inside the box. For instance, if you have a teddy bear inside, you can say, "It's soft." After the first clue is given, ask the children to guess what might be inside. Repeat the process by giving a second clue, such as, "It's brown" and then ask the children to guess again.

If the children still haven't figured it out, give a third and final clue, such as, "It wants to be hugged." If the children haven't guessed what it is after the third and final clue, then reveal what's inside the box.

After showing the kids how to play the game, ask one of the children to take the mystery box home so they can return the next day with an item inside the box for the children to guess what it is.

At home, the child should work with an adult on what three clues they should give as to what's inside the box. The child can write their clues down themselves, or if he or she is too young to write, the child can dictate the clues to his or her parents. The next day, the child returns with the mystery box and the three clues for children to guess what's inside. Take turns so that each of the kids gets to bring an item in to hide in the

mystery box.

For younger children, a similar version of the mystery box game can be played with the addition of a hole so that children can put in their hand to touch the item and discuss its attributes.