

Cylinder Blocks

There are four cylinder blocks, each containing ten cylinders with knobs that vary systematically in diameter for height.

Block #1– each cylinder decreases in diameter from large to small, as well as decreasing in height from tall to short.

Block #2- each cylinder changes in size from large to small, while increasing in height from short to tall, as the diameter decreases, the height increases.

Block #3- each cylinder is different in diameter, ranging from thick to thin, but their height is identical.

Block #4- each cylinder is the same diameter, ranging in height from tall to short.

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to help develop a child's visual discrimination of diameter and height.



Directions: To begin, invite the child to the sensorial shelf to introduce Cylinder Blocks. The Cylinder Block #1 is presented first because it differs in three dimensions and is a stable set to use. The child is first shown how to carefully place one hand at each end of the Cylinder Block and carry it to a table. The Cylinder Block is placed on the table, leaving enough space between the block and the child to lay out all of the cylinders. At this point, the cylinders are removed from left to right and are placed in a mixed, horizontal order in front of the block. After removing all of the cylinders, using the pincer grip, pick up the cylinder on the left, turn it over and hold it in front you to observe the size. Scan over the holes in the cylinder block choose the correct hole and carefully place the cylinder into it.

This procedure is continued with each cylinder.

Once the presentation is complete, the child is invited to repeat the activity.

When returning the completed Cylinder Block to the shelf, explain to the child that he/she is now free to work with any of the Cylinder Blocks in the same manner.

Extensions:

Show the child how to place two Cylinder Blocks on a table, scatter all of the Cylinders, and place them in their corresponding holes.

Show the child how to place three Cylinder Blocks in the shape of a triangle on a table. Scatter all of the Cylinders inside the perimeter, and place them in their corresponding holes.

Show the child how to arrange all four Cylinder Blocks into a square, scatter all of the Cylinders inside the shapes, and place them in their corresponding holes.

Miss Tanya

BA, B.Ed, IMTD (3-6)