

Opening and Closing Containers

Purpose: To help the child learn to open and close the lids of boxes and jars. This activity helps children develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and visual discrimination.

Directions: For this activity you will need a basket with assorted containers (boxes, jars, etc.) and their corresponding lids and a vinyl mat for the child to complete their work on. The child will remove the containers from the basket one at a time, placing them on the vinyl mat in a row from left to right. Moving from left to right, the child will open the first container using their dominant hand on the lid while steadying the container with their non-dominant hand. The child will return the container to its place on the table and place the lid in front of it. This process is continued in this manner until all of the containers are open. Starting on the left, the child will pick up the lid using their dominant hand, close the container, and return the closed container to its place on the table. Moving left to right, this process is continued in this manner until all the containers are closed.

Fun Ideas: Change containers to have different types of lids, and use a variety of boxes, jars, and/or cork tops. Change vinyl mat to a felt mat or other attractive material. The basket that holds the containers can be replaced with different boxes, containers, trays etc... to make the work more inviting.



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