

# Pulling a Hidden Object out of a Cylinder

This is a **MOTOR ACTIVITY**  
for children aged 9-12 months old.

## PRIMARY GOAL:

To develop fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination.

## SECONDARY GOALS:

To recognise that an object exists even though it has disappeared from sight (object permanence);

To develop problem-solving skills.

## MATERIALS:



- A "work mat" (about the size of a doormat); this defines the child's work space, helping them concentrate and develop a sense of order. No-one else should be allowed to intrude on the work space whilst your child is using it.
- 15-20 light scarves, sewn securely together end-to-end so that they make a long rope;
- A cylinder-shaped container with a lid (eg a Pringles tube). Cut a half-inch hole in the lid (make sure the edges are smooth) and cover the container in plain paper.

## WHAT TO DO:



- Stuff the rope in the tube, with just the very end poking through the hole.
- Place the work mat in front of your child and put the tube on it.
- Wait until you have your child's attention.
- Pick up the cylinder and examine it, turning it every which way.
- Gently pull on the end of the scarf until it all comes out.
- Draw your child's attention to the scarf by playing with it briefly, then put it down on the mat.
- Take off the lid, put it on the mat, stuff the scarf back in and replace the lid with the scarf poking through as before. Do all this slowly and carefully. Engage your child with a smile.
- Invite your child to pull the scarf through. If necessary, guide his or her hand to get started.
- Offer to help put the scarf back in when the time is appropriate. Move at the child's pace and let him or her guide the activity.
- Repeat as often as your child would like to.
- When your child loses interest, put the scarf back in the container, then take your child with you while you carefully put the activity back where it belongs.

## HOW TO EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE



- Add language. Rather than present the activity in silence, talk about what you are doing, especially using the words "hide" and "find".
- Make a rope out of other materials, such as a metal chain.
- Use a small object with string attached instead of a chain. Let your child see you lower it into the tube, then put on the lid leaving about 6 inches of string hanging through (there should be no hole in the lid this time). The child has to take off the lid and tip or pull out the object.

**\*\*NB: When using a rope/chain, supervise your child carefully so that they do not attempt to wrap it around their neck.\*\***