



Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge Activity for 18 to 24 Months

Quiet or Loud?

This activity is a fun way to introduce concepts to young children.

Materials:

- Safe household objects that can be combined to make noises (wooden spoons, metal spoons, pots, lids, and coffee cans with plastic lids, small, thick glass jars filled with beans, plastic bowls filled with small objects)

What to do:

1. Take an object and make a noise by shaking or banging it. Give it to the child and say, "You do it, too." Label your action whether it is shaking, banging, beating, or rattling, and say, "We are making loud sounds." Select another object and repeat by labeling the sound as loud.
2. Introduce objects that produce very quiet sounds and use the same procedure. Say, "Now we are going to make quiet sounds."
3. Use nursery rhymes or songs in which you can sing or play loudly then softly. Exaggerate your movements. Ask the child whether the two of you should sing or play the music loudly or softly and let the child decide. Ask the child afterwards whether you played the music or sang loudly or softly.
4. Modify the game so you make the sound and ask the child to shake her head yes or no when you ask whether the sound is loud or quiet. Give the child a doll or puppet and have the puppet answer questions about loud or softly.

