

Concoction Bottles Coloured/Clear

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Delightfully engaging bottles that have a variety of uses. There are two kinds, one clear and one coloured, plus they are different shapes. Here are some suggestions:

- Let the children play independently with them and see how they use them.
- They may choose to empty and fill them or weave them into their role play scenarios.
- Use in many play areas. They could be in the sand and water play.
- They are great for filing with a diversity of materials. Try petals, leaves, stones, glitter, glitter, snow, food colouring, aromas, herbs, spices, jewels, shells, sequins, pine needles, tissue paper, etc.
- The children might enjoy filling them with soil and incorporating them into their mud kitchen play activities.
- When children are mixing materials they are experiencing science. They will be changing materials and learning about reversible and irreversible changes. They can learn first-hand about nature, textures, aromas and so much more. Experimenting and investigating are key skills that need lots of time to experience.
- Provide a range of accessories for the children to practise pouring skills.
- Try having lots of different sixes of spoons to fill the bottles. Tweezers are also great for hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.
- Try to make the accessories exciting by finding interesting metal jugs, patterned spoons, funnels, etc. to use with the bottles.
- Interesting, engaging materials help with the creativity and act as conversation starters.
- Look at ways that the bottles can change colour (clear versions). What can we place in the bottle to turn it blue, sparkly, cloudy, etc?
- Which things will float in the bottles?
- Try leaving a treasure map inside one of the bottles for the children to discover. It could help them lead to buried treasure.
- It does not have to be wet materials, ie. liquids that are used. Some children may enjoy counting different amounts into the bottles.
- You could place numbers on the bottles eg. 'Post-its' or a number attached to a piece of wool. The children could match the corresponding amounts.
- They could also use the bottles for one-one correspondence activities. Use a variety of counters from dinosaurs to shells.
- Use the bottles for sorting activities. Buttons work well for this, as the children could classify the various styles and colours.

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- Find a selection of small things that could go in the coloured bottles and colour match.
- Write out potion recipes for the children to follow. It could be eg.
 - 2 petals
 - 2 leaves
 - 1 stone
 - 1 cup of water, etc.
- The children could think of imaginative names for the potions and label the bottles.
- Give the children tasks, eg. can you make a potion that smells nice, is green, is for turning someone into a queen or king, etc.
- Try using the dry bottles on lightboxes and seeing how they illuminate. They also work well with the glow construction bricks.
- Think about the characters the bottles could relate to. The blue bottle (or the clear with blue, ice and glitter in it), could belong to Jack Frost. Another bottle could contain a genie. The children can provide their own ideas and describe who the bottle relates to.

Safety

NB: Do not use liquids near lightboxes

NB: The children need to be aware that the contents of the bottles cannot be consumed.

