
GRASPING ACTIVITIES

BELL ON A RIBBON

This grabbing activity encourages reaching and grasping as well as auditory development. Hang the bell securely and firmly within the baby's reach so they can bat it, taste it, ring it, and grab it. The length of your ribbon and elastic depends on how and where you hang it—from a mobile, a hanger, or the ceiling.

MATERIALS

- Brightly colored ribbon 1 inch (3 cm) wide; satin or velveteen are nice
- One round “jingle bell,” approximately 1.5 inches (4 cm) in diameter, that does not have sharp edges or openings big enough for the child to get their fingers stuck in.
- Elastic band

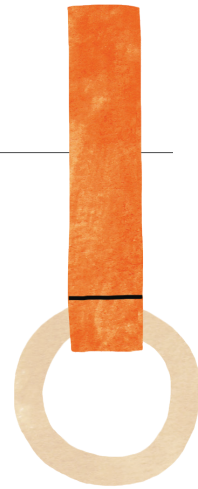
CONSTRUCTION

1. Thread the ribbon through the top of the jingle bell. Sew firmly in place.
2. Sew the other end of the ribbon to the elastic band.
3. Attach the elastic to a mobile, a hanger, or to a hook on the ceiling. Bells should be very firmly sewn onto ribbon and safely hung since it will be grabbed by the child. It should be hung sturdily enough to take the baby's weight if necessary.



RING ON A RIBBON

Using the same method described in the instructions for Bell on a Ribbon, you can hang a ring on its own or add it to the bell. Different materials—wood, silver, plastic—provide different tactile experiences. You can use a wooden curtain ring or teething ring measuring approximately 3 inches (8 cm) in diameter or three thin metal bangle bracelets, which make beautiful sounds when they clank together. Check to make sure rings are smooth.



BEADS FOR GRASPING

This is an example of a simple grasping activity. Made from wooden beads, babies love exploring this simple material with both their hands and mouths. Check regularly that the knots are secure.

MATERIALS

- Three to six beads, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (2 cm) in diameter. They should be unpainted/unfinished (finish can be removed by sanding or dipping in alcohol).
- Strong string or leather thong or cord
- Needle and thread
- Optional: If your bead opening is big, you can tie a button or wooden disc on each end of the cord. These elements can add beauty and texture.

CONSTRUCTION

1. String the beads onto the cord with no more than 1 to 2 centimeters between each. You want them to sit easily on the string without moving up or down. There should be no extra cord visible.
2. Beads with large holes can be bound off using a button; small holes can be finished with a knot.
3. Stitch each knot with thread to prevent them from coming untied.

RINGS ON A PEG OR DOWEL

As our baby's grip evolves, they will enjoy placing rings onto pegs, dowels, or holders. This allows the baby to use their hands in different ways, build their hand-eye coordination, and build cognition and problem-solving skills.

MATERIALS

- Wooden posts/holders, such as a paper towel holder, mug, or plate holder
- Bracelets or curtain rings, approximately 3 inches (8 cm) in diameter