

Mirror Pebbles

Product Codes: EY06518, EY06632, EY04238

These delightful resources have many potential uses. They are open-ended and versatile. The children will find many ways of using them, but here are a few suggestions:

- Use as a stacking resource. Can they balance the pebbles carefully? Can they use their hand-eye co-ordinations skills and persevere with the challenge? Incorporate other pebbles and construction materials to provide different surfaces, shapes, weights and textures.
- Encourage young children to really explore the pebbles. What do they look like, feel like, etc.? Are they smooth, shiny, heavy, etc.? What are their properties? Can the children make vital connections and discoveries? Can they see their reflection?
- Use the pebbles in a treasure basket collection. The theme could be shiny or varying pebbles.
- Place the pebbles on different surfaces. Try a mirror tray or a sparkly fabric. Place them in Active World Trays (Tuff Spots) with different surfaces.
- Wrap the pebbles in different fabrics, crinkly paper, etc. Let the children unwind and discover them. Place them on containers in feely boxes.
- Incorporate them into schematic behaviour learning. Identify a child's interest and adapt accordingly. You may wish to put a selection of resources together that align to a rotational schema and the pebbles may be part of that.
- Select a range of mirrored resources and include the pebbles. You may wish to attach them to the wall (hook and loop) and create a lovely sensory environment. Encourage the children to peer into the surfaces in order to see their own reflection.
- Young children may enjoy placing fabrics, especially voiles over the pebbles and playing a hide it game.
- Talk about the pebbles in rich language terms. Enrich the children's vocabulary. Use references such as smooth, light, surface, metallic, etc.
- Incorporate the language of mathematical literacy with references to large, medium, small, biggest, tiny, teeny, etc.
- Go on a treasure hunt in search of the hidden pebbles. Treat them as treasure like objects. Perhaps they are giant coins. What would you spend your coin on? What would you use it for?

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- The pebbles are very treasure like and have a great appeal. Why not add them to a pirate's treasure trove. If you use a metal detector to sort out the treasure's properties you may make an interesting discovery that they are not metal. This is a great opportunity to talk in scientific terms and use the language of properties.
- Compare and contrast the pebbles. Are they all the same? Use as one to one correspondence activities. Use to sort by size and order accordingly. Make sequence patterns.
- Enable the children to use the pebbles in their own symbolic play. The pebbles could become all kinds of imaginary things.
- Use in small world play. Imagine the pebbles in a lunar landscape or perhaps as an alien egg or space ship. They might be used as treasure like islands.