

Learning with the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top

Building skills through light, sound, and movement.

- Encourages curiosity, investigation, and discovery.
- Designed with curious learners in mind.
- Perfect for schematic play and developing motor skills.
- Magical and multi-sensory learning experiences.
- Rechargeable and safety tested.



Introduction to the Giant Spinning Top



The Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top is designed to interest and engage children of varying ages and stages of development. It is safe to use from 10 months of age and has all the relevant testing documentation.

From enabling babies to explore and learn, to offering older children the chance to experience more complex concepts, the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top can be used in many ways and supports the development of a range of skills.

It is a multi-sensory experience with movements, noise, and visual effects. These all add to the holistic enrichment and enjoyment of children while giving a sense of awe and wonder.



Ideas and Inspiration

Here are some ideas of how you can embed the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top into the children's play.

We understand that children will have their own ideas and interests, so these are just insights to share with you.



**Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.**

- Benjamin Franklin



Fostering Curiosity and Fascination

- Every child is born with a natural curiosity that sparks their fascination. They are immediately captivated by the sounds and sights that surround them in their everyday lives.
- When a child approaches the world with curiosity, they are more likely to delve into investigations and explore their surroundings. When they engage in play, they often wonder, "What is this? How does it work? Have I seen it before?"
- By providing them with unique and unusual objects such as the Giant Light and Sound Spinning top, we can ignite their interest and encourage them to incorporate their discoveries into their playtime adventures, thus strengthening brain connections. This intentional approach nurtures their imaginative thinking and supports their cognitive development.



Fostering Curiosity and Fascination Continued:

- The Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top, with its beautiful patterns, soothing sounds and relaxed palette of coloured lights will capture the attention of younger children.
- Some children may sit and observe the spinning top whilst others will be eager to investigate.
- As it spins, the swirling lights will start to change colour, creating a mesmerising display.
- As they interact with this spinning top, some children may be fascinated by simply pressing the buttons while others will want to investigate and make discoveries. How do I make it spin? What sound effects will ring out when it moves in certain directions? How can I make the colours change?
- Children quickly learn to make vital connections and see that their action causes an effect. Younger children love to simply create a reaction. Here, they are learning about cause and effect, and stimulus-response.



Schematic Play

Things to try:

- Can the children make connections in their learning by finding other items that spin and rotate? How are they similar or different?
- What are the different ways in which they can make it spin and rotate? With two hands, one hand, or collaboratively in pairs?

All children are unique and their engagement with schemas will vary. As practitioners, it's important to observe, encourage, and support their individual interests and ways of exploring. Here are some ways in which children may respond to the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top in relation to their schematic interests.

Transporting – Some children may enjoy moving the spinning top around and transporting it to different places. For example, some may want to see it spin on different surfaces such as on a hard floor or carpeted area. This not only satisfies their transporting interests but also helps them to understand how different surfaces can impact the movement of objects.

Orientation – The schema of orientation involves children's interest in viewing the world from different perspectives. As children watch the top spin, they will start to experience and see how an object's orientation can change. For example, when the top is stationary or moving slowly, it will stand upright but if spun faster, may start to spin horizontally and wobble. Children who are interested in the orientation schema may also lay the spinning top on its side to spin it or enjoy watching its reflection on a mirrored surface. Some may even lie down and observe it from floor level.



Schematic Play Continued...



Transforming – As we know, children are often fascinated by the idea of change or transformation. The Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top can transform in many ways. In the simplest form, it can transform from a stationary object to a spinning, dynamic one when force is applied. It can also transform according to how the child uses it e.g., changing the colours or the sounds depending on the movement and direction, or using the buttons to switch these modes off completely.

Rotation – The spinning top is a fantastic resource for exploring the rotation schema. Have you ever observed children spreading their arms out wide and spinning, tinkering with taps, or singing and acting out nursery rhymes like ‘Wind the bobbin up’ on repeat? For children fascinated by the rotation schema, the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top will allow them to explore their interests in a range of ways.



Developing Motor Skills



Gross Motor Skills – Picture a child wrapping their arms around the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top, enveloping it with their body. Smaller children may use their whole strength to give the top a big push or mighty twist. Not only will these movements capture their attention, but the prodding, pushing, pulling, and twisting will do wonders for their gross motor skills. It will help them to develop strength and master the movements of their bodies too.

- **Fine Motor Skills** – We wouldn't necessarily think that a mighty, Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top could help with delicate, intricate movements. But when you look closer, you will see some children adjusting their grip, deciding just where to place their hands for the best spin and carefully stopping the top when it's time to take a rest. These smaller movements will not only help to develop their fine motor skills but also give them more control over their fingers and hands, preparing them for later academic tasks such as writing.



Developing Motor Skills Cont...

Remember, always keep an eye on the fun. The giant spinning top may sometimes move in unexpected ways, so supervision is key.



- **Balance and Coordination** – Due to the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top being larger than most, children will often lean into the top to get it spinning. Some children will spin it, step back, watch it spin, then step forward again to give it another nudge. It's a delicate dance, requiring balance and coordination. Whilst participating in this kind of play, they are also learning to move their body in a coordinated way.
- **Muscle Strength and Endurance** – Whilst exploring and having fun with the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top, they are also building their muscle strength and endurance. Each push, each pull, and each twist is helping them to become stronger and more resilient as they practise and persevere.



Communication, Language and Interactions



Joint Attention – Children naturally gather around interactive and engaging resources like the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top. This shared focus and engagement creates opportunities for joint attention, crucial building blocks of communication and interaction.

Conversation and Narratives – As children are engaging with the spinning top, they will often start to describe what they are doing, plan their actions out loud, or narrate the spinning top's movements and journey. They may talk about whose turn it is, how hard it is to spin, or the amount of time it spins for.

Social Interaction – The turn-taking nature of the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top promotes social interaction. Children will start to negotiate and share, cooperate when spinning it together, and give each other words of encouragement. This can foster skills such as listening, empathy, and the understanding of social rules.



Communication, Language and Interactions Cont...



Questions and Discoveries –

Observing and playing with the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top can trigger a host of questions. For example, 'Why does it keep spinning?', 'Why does it wobble?', 'How do I make the sound change?', 'Why do the colours and sounds change when moved in different directions?' These questions and the discussions that follow can enhance children's curiosity and provide a context for meaningful communication and language development.

Widening vocabularies – When playing with the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top, children can be introduced to a range of words and phrases. When talking about the motion, they may use words such as spin, rotate, fast, and slow. If describing the spinning top, they may use the language of size e.g., big, giant, or huge. They will also be introduced to verbs such as start, stop, spin, push, pull, twist, and wobble. Interacting with others whilst playing with the Spinning Top will support them in expanding their vocabulary and help them to understand the meaning of these words in a fun, hands-on way.



STEAM Based Learning



When children interact with the Giant Light and Sound Spinning top, they are engaging in a multi-sensory learning experience that brings together elements of STEAM.

- As a child sets the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top in motion, they are not only developing their physical skills but also exploring and experiencing scientific concepts through their play. They're exploring the effect of friction as they try spinning it on different surfaces and experimenting with force and speed. This hands-on experience can trigger curiosity about the world. Careful questioning can spark their scientific reasoning.
- The Spinning Top can also inspire creativity. Some children will be fascinated by the spinning motion, the patterns it creates, or how the different colours blur together as it spins. Others may weave stories into their play.
- Suggest STEAM challenges such as 'How long they can make the top spin for?', 'Can they find out if different surfaces produce different results?', 'If so, why might this be?' If other spinning tops are available, some children may like to investigate to see how they are similar and different and if the materials they are made from or the size of the top makes a difference to how it moves. What else can they make spin?



STEAM Based Learning Cont...

- The subtle use of technology enables children to take control of their play. They can determine whether to have sounds or can choose which sounds they would like by manipulating the top in a particular way. They may press the buttons to turn it off as some children may wish to turn off the effects for a while.
- Whilst interacting with the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top, children are likely to interact with their peers or adults by sharing observations, asking questions, discussing their experiences, and wondering out loud. This not only promotes language and communication skills but also nurtures curious minds, prompting them to want to investigate and find out more about the world around them. Recording devices such as Talking Clipboards, Sound Buttons, or Kitt the Learning Companion, etc can be used alongside the Spinning Top to record observations or make mini films.



Sensory Experiences

- As the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top lights up, it looks even more atmospheric and appealing in semi-darkened environments. Imagine it in a dark den or sensory room. It would also work well in a light lab with light projectors, mirrors, and other light-up resources.
- The effects can be altered with the press of a switch, so the sounds are not always apparent. The Spinning Top can be switched on to add light and sound effects or switched off. Adapt accordingly to the needs and interests of your children.

We hope that your learners have wonderful learning experiences with the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top.

