

The Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top

Supporting Physical
Development and Motor
Skills



Adaptation of a Centuries-Old Classic

The Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top is a modern adaptation and progression of a classic, centuries-old concept. It offers fantastic play and learning opportunities, versatile use, and assists motor skill development in many ways.

It can be used by children individually (with supervision), in small groups, or by practitioners for whole class activities.



How the Giant Light and Sound Spinning Top Supports Physical Development and Motor Skills

Attention and Concentration

With the sound/light mode turned on, it chimes when turned clockwise and gives the sound of a breeze/waves when turned anticlockwise.

Eight colours transition smoothly through – pink, purple, blue turquoise, green, yellow, orange, and red. The curved base also lights up, to encourage children to look under the spinning top, or can be seen by children lying on their side. The movement of the Giant Spinning Top encourages calm attention and concentration.

Memory and Hand-Eye Coordination

With more force applied to twisting and turning, the faster the spinning top spins and the quicker the colours transition. The colour sequence offers opportunities to develop memory and hand-eye coordination. Can a child stop it on a certain colour? If stopped on a certain colour, could the colours represent actions – for example making the sounds of an animal, moving in a certain way or hopping on one leg? With eight colours and a lot of options, fun and bespoke engagement can be had.

Wrist, Hand/Finger Strength, and Coordination

Wrist, hand/finger strength, and coordination will also develop when manipulating the buttons or twisting and turning the Giant Spinning Top (with or without the sound and lights on).

Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills are further developed with the Giant Spinning Top by finger tracking the spirals or the stars (and other shapes). This helps eye-hand coordination too. Shoulder stability is also required when spinning, lifting, and manoeuvring the Giant Spinning Top – all of which aid fine motor function and physical development.

In addition to “cause and effect” movement when the Giant Spinning Top is turned in either direction, it also “boings” when pushed as it rocks backward and forwards. This creates further intrigue and focused movement.



Muscle Strength and Endurance

The Giant Spinning Top improves core muscle strength and endurance, key requirements for onward gross motor skill development, as when it is twisted and moved, a thoughtful force is needed to turn and spin it.

This engages core muscles (stomach and back muscles) needed for healthy, balanced upright postures. Core muscle strength and endurance also let children stabilise their bodies to use their hands for writing and other fine motor activities, along with using their feet to jump and kick a ball.

Body and Spatial Awareness

Children will learn about their body and spatial awareness (both essential elements of physical motor development) through the forces, body actions, and coordination they need to spin and move the Giant Spinning Top in different directions. Children can tap it with one or two hands, spin it, stop it, hug it, and cross their midline - all fantastic movement opportunities to develop and build spatial and body awareness.

Building Curiosity and Boosting Confidence

Children will get a sense of achievement and have fun when exploring the Giant Spinning Top. This stimulates and encourages curiosity, boosts confidence, builds resilience, and feeds into a sense of inquisitive learning in other situations too, especially as physical activity and movement are incorporated into the learning.

The giant spinning top is rechargeable through a USB charging point. It is a versatile piece of equipment that offers many play, learning, and physical development opportunities.

Thank you to Lorna Taylor, who is a Paediatric Physiotherapist, for writing this guide for us.

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

