

Shades of Wooden Tonal Collection

Product Code: EY11120, EY11121, EY11122, EY11123, EY11124, EY11125, EY11126, EY11127

These beautiful loose part sets allows children to engage in unstructured free play that enables them to combine, align, carry, transport, stack and classify in multiple ways. These tonal wooden pieces act as rich play objects from nature. Loose parts can be manipulated in multiple possibilities and transformed into symbolic materials.

- These tonal pieces are wonderfully open-ended to support children's independent free play. They are purposefully created to lend themselves to a variety of different learning scenarios. Children can independently select their preferred colour or pieces to create and be imaginative with.
- You could set these beautiful wooden pieces up beneath sparkly cloths or matching coloured fabric for the children to discover what is hiding underneath. Children are naturally curious and will want to explore and discover. You could place these inside a box all wrapped up delivered to the children. Perhaps you could find a box that matches the tonal collection you have selected.
- Some children will notice that these sets have different tones of one colour. You can use this opportunity to talk to the children about how not all reds are the same e.g. ruby, scarlet, pillar box red. Support children in developing a rich and varied vocabulary. Encourage the children to look at the similarities and differences between the colours, is this purple lighter or darker?
- Children with different schematic behaviours may enjoy exploring these wooden pieces. Those with a rotary schema can roll and rotate the coloured balls. Children can enclose the balls and people inside the egg cups and little bowls. Those with a positioning schema will enjoy lining up the pieces, perhaps they may line up all the little people or the pebbles. Some children may enjoy stacking the pebbles on top of each other. These wonderfully open-ended pieces offer themselves to be used in a variety of different ways by the children.
- You could set these tonal pieces on top of the Tonal Activity Workstation Unit (EY11611) for the children to explore independently. The mirror on the back of the unit offers children a different view of their pieces as they explore reflections and colour. These lovely loose parts can be placed on this unit for children to self-select and independently explore.
- Alongside the Tonal Activity Workstation Unit (EY11611) you could use these wonderful loose parts with the Shades of Tonal Soft Blocks. Working the soft, fabric blocks alongside the tonal wooden collection children can independently explore colour and their creativity. They may build a tonal village using the soft blocks for their little wooden people to live in. They may choose to sort, match and classify the blocks and the wooden pieces together by colour. Children may create a tonal red village with the soft blocks and wooden tonal pieces.

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- Children can use these beautiful wooden tonal pieces in their symbolic play as they create narratives and stories building on their early literacy skills. They may build a mini tundra environment using the tonal blue pieces or they may create a lime green alien. Some children may use one of the semi circles as a telephone and call their friends and family whilst others may place the balls in the pots and pretend to be eating boiled eggs. The possibilities for children's imagination is endless.
- These wonderful pieces can be used to support children's mathematical development by sorting, classifying and matching. Children can sort by specific item such as pebbles, balls, pots, people etc. or they may sort by colour.
- Some children may use these loose part pieces to create familiar stories. They may recreate Goldilocks and the three bears and create the scene. They may use the semi circles as the bear's house and the little pots as the different porridges. You can support their learning by offering additional resources that may enhance their play and learning. Perhaps the children could take photographs of the different scenes they have created and form a storyboard. This supports children's early literacy skills as they retell familiar stories and learn about the beginning, middle and end.
- Some children may use these beautiful pieces alongside your other loose part materials. They may use channelling and create a run for the multi-coloured wooden balls. Children can develop their mathematical and critical thinking skills by working out how to get the balls to run freely down. They may need extra materials such as bricks to build their channelling higher. Support the children in their learning experiences by offering suggestions and asking how their task is going.
- Why not take the children on a colour hunt (risk assess) and search for items in specific colours, perhaps you could go on a red hunt. The children could take pictures and document their findings. Once you have returned work together with the children to see how many different items they discovered. Perhaps you could print out the pictures of these found objects and the children can sort them into colour groups.
- The little wooden people are purposefully simple versions of people to be open-ended for children's creativity and imagination. Children can pretend that these are anyone. They may have these as familiar characters from T.V and films or as their own family members.
- You could play a variety of different colour games with your children. You could hold up the different coloured people and ask the children if they are wearing a similar colour. Is anyone wearing scarlet red today? Is anyone wearing any lime green? The children can look at similarities and differences between themselves and others and recognise that today they may match the scarlet doll but tomorrow they may match the navy blue doll.

