

## *Motor Activity 8: Stacking Assorted Objects*

### Primary Goals

Developing balance and coordination.

### Secondary Goals

Developing concentration and problem-solving skills.

### Material

Work mat.

Basket.

Assorted objects that can be stacked. Examples: washable egg carton; small cardboard box; coffee tin covered with paper; small shoe box; cereal box; tissue box; jar with lid; blocks of wood; small foam cushions; fabric-covered flat foam shapes.

### Presentation

- This activity appeals particularly to the interests and abilities of infants 9–12 months old.
- In advance, put the materials in the basket and get the work mat.
- Place the work mat in front of the infant and place the basket on the work mat.
- Sit facing the infant with the work mat between you.
- Wait until you have the infant's attention.
- Take one object out of the basket and place the object on the work mat.
- Take another object out and place it on top of the first. Repeat, until you have made a stack of four or five objects. Set the basket aside.
- Push the stack over. Smile at the infant to show that pushing the stack over is part of the activity.



- Gather the objects and place them together on the work mat.
- Again make a stack of five or six objects. You do not have to stack the objects in the same order as you did the first time.
- When you have built the new stack, invite the infant to push it over.
- Ask the infant to help you return the objects to the basket.
- Invite the infant to continue. For example, say, “Now you make a stack.”
- As soon as the infant is absorbed in the activity, quietly move aside and leave him/her to work undisturbed.
- When the infant has finished the activity, put the objects in the basket, then take the infant with you while you put the work mat and materials in their proper places. This completes the activity.
- Make sure that the materials presented stay available — on a very low shelf, for example — for the child to work on again when she/he wishes.

### Extension 1

- Instead of a stack, make a bridge or tunnel, showing the infant how to support a longer object with two shorter ones on either side. Encourage the infant to look under the bridge or tunnel, or to push a toy car underneath.

### Extension 2

- Add language to this activity, introducing the words “stack up” and “fall down.”