

## Baby Play

### Practical Activities

These two practical activities would work best by dividing the class into pairs or small groups.

#### Activity 1

The tutor needs to organise a blindfold and a box of random items suitable for both treasure baskets and heuristic play to supplement objects already present in the classroom.

Each student has to assemble a small number (to be specified by the tutor depending on the number of students and items available) of items for a treasure basket and heuristic play. The treasure basket should be suitable for a non-sighted infant and the heuristic play items for a child with limited mobility.

1. For the heuristic play each student must explain why they think that particular item is suitable and what facet of play does the item explore.
2. For the treasure basket, student A puts their treasure basket in front of a blindfolded student (student B). Student A records which sense each item in the basket is intended to stimulate. Student B then spends a couple of minutes using touch, smell and hearing to explore the objects. Student A then asks the blindfolded student which sense each item stimulates and in what way the item stimulates.

Do the answers tally with the original intention of student A?

How close were the two student's perceptions of the same objects?

Discuss how this might affect the choices of treasure basket items by an adult.

Rotate this activity through the small group or pair to allow each side of the role play.

#### Activity 2

Complete a small project.

Scenario: You have just been given the task of organising a pre-school playgroup. You wish to introduce heuristic play but none of the parents or helpers have ever heard of heuristic play before.

Plan a project to introduce a 45 min heuristic play session 3 times a week in the playgroup. The playgroup contains all ages from 0-5 years olds.

How would you go about introducing and running the session?

How would you educate and inform parents and helpers?

Are there any disabled children and how would you cater for them?

Use the internet to do some research and see what other groups have done to introduce heuristic play and treasure baskets.

Below are a few websites to start you off but there are many more sites on the topic to research.

[http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/early\\_years/Heuristic\\_play\\_page.pdf](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/early_years/Heuristic_play_page.pdf)

<http://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/c/resourcesuk/articles/cpd/heuristicplay.htm>

<http://www.redhen.ie/heuristicplay.htm>

<http://preschool.atalink.co.uk/articles/76>