



Ball Bounty

Module: III
Topic: Discoveries of Infancy
Type: Games
Group Size: Pairs
Time: 10 – 15 minutes (not including video)

Purpose:

1. To experience discoveries an infant makes.
2. To understand some of the rich and complex learning infants and toddlers are capable of while they explore using their senses.

What you will need:

| Participant Materials | Trainer Materials | Equipment |
|---|---|------------------|
| <p>The following materials: :: A wide variety of balls with different textures, sizes, sounds, hardness/softness (1 for every two people)</p> | <p>:: PITC Video: <i>Discoveries of Infancy</i></p> | <p>:: TV/VCR</p> |

Directions:

1. Explain that infants are ready to learn from birth on. They absorb information through touch, from the sights, sounds, and scents around them. They store it, sort it out, and use this information to explore more precisely the world around them.
2. Have participants find a partner.
3. Give each pair a ball and ask them to explore the properties of their ball. (What can it do? How does it move? How does it feel? What does it look like?)
4. Invite a few volunteers to share their discoveries with the whole group.
5. Point out each aspect participants mentioned is experienced by the infant or toddler. Although infants and toddlers may not know the words to describe their ball, through their senses they know the properties of their ball, its size, texture, how it moves, if it makes a sound, is it is similar or different to other things they know, and so on.
6. Show the PITC video, *Discoveries of Infancy*.
7. As each of the six discoveries is discussed, reference can be made to participants' experience with the different balls.

Variations:

Links to Head Start Program Performance Standards:

Includes but not limited to:

:: 1304.21(a)(1)(i) *"Child development and education approach for all children. Guidance: Program responsiveness to individual children is accomplished through comprehensive curriculum and by providing various materials, activities, and experiences that support a broad range of children's prior experiences, maturation rates, styles of learning, needs, cultures, and interests."*

:: 1304.21(a)(4)(i) *"Provide for the development of each child's cognitive and language skills by supporting each child's learning, using various strategies including experimentation, inquiry, observation, play and exploration."*

Activity Developed by:

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Source Material:

Lally, J.R. (Executive Producer/Content Developer/Writer), Mangione P.L. (Content Developer/Writer), Signer, S. (Content Developer/Writer), Butterfield, G.O. (Producer/Editor), & Gilford, S. (Writer). (1992). *Discoveries of infancy: Cognitive development and learning* [Videotape]. United States: The Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers (Developed collaboratively by the California Department of Education and WestEd).

WestEd. (1995). *The Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers' Trainer's manual, Module III: Learning and Development*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Education.

