

Mathematical moments: Spatial reasoning with babies

Nested toys



There are numerous nested resources within the baby room including plastic stacking cups, a set of three lightweight metal baking bowls and a nested toy featuring four different characters in a popular children's story. Harry (12 months) is sitting on the floor and playing with some treasure basket resources. Chloe, his key person, notices that Harry has spent an unusually long time investigating two of the metal bowls, repeatedly putting the smaller bowl inside the larger one and also trying to put the larger one inside the smaller one. She remembers that on the previous day he had been similarly fascinated with the stacking cups, choosing just a few to bang together and sometimes fitting one inside another. Chloe decides to keep a watchful eye on Harry's interactions with these resources to learn more about his thinking and to potentially offer him some support or perhaps model fitting one thing inside another such as everyday cardboard packets and boxes that parents bring from home.

