

THE SWEET PEAS VINE



3 Every Day Fun Gadgets that Help Kids Learn

This month's Sweet Pea Theme is **Gadgets, Tools and Doohickeys**. True to our Sweet Pea heart, we are focusing on fun devices that are:

1. Educational
2. Kid friendly and
3. Kid powered

1. Measuring tape

Give a child a measuring tape and suddenly everything needs to be measured! Measuring help teach and reinforce number recognition. Measuring tapes give little ones experience in relating a numerical value to a distance. Experimenting with measuring tapes provides preschoolers with hands on experience comparing the length of different objects and distances. Measuring helps them associate longer distances with higher numbers and shorter distances with lower numbers. There is also motor value to playing with measuring tapes as children learn to manipulate the release button, pull out the tape and measure the distance. Measuring measures up as a fun gadget for kids!



2. Scissors

Learning to cut with scissors is a fundamental preschool milestone. Parents and educators should provide safe, developmentally appropriate scissors designed for preschool use AND should take special care to provide lefties with left handed scissors.

Cutting things out with scissors fosters bilateral dominant/non dominant hand coordination as one hand is dominant in completing the task while the other assists. Dominant/non-dominant coordination is needed for many daily tasks such as writing, stringing beads, tying shoes, gluing, completing fasteners, and coloring.

WISE TO
SUPERVISE
SCISSOR
ACTIVITIES.



3. Tin Can Telephone

Making a tin can phone should be a requisite to kindergarten! A tin can telephone is a fun gadget that is a little bit science, a little bit crafty and a little bit mysterious. Technically, a tin can telephone is an acoustic (non-electrical) speech-transmitting device made up of two tin cans attached to either end of a taut string or wire. Kids can talk into their can and their speech vibrations are passed along the string to the other can. A tin can telephone is a great device for preschool espionage and fun adventures. Tin can telephones are really fun and they help teach kids about sound vibrations, speech communications and timeless fun. Talk to the can!

