



Especially for Littles

Creative Caps

Search your recyclables and create a collection of container caps and jar lids. These simple, everyday objects are full of potential for play with their bright colors, differing textures, and variety of sizes and shapes!

Choose larger, non-chokeable caps for infants and toddlers, and be sure to clean all caps well before using them for play. Juice bottle tops, laundry detergent caps, peanut butter jar tops, and cream cheese tub lids are just a few ideas that you might already have in your recycling bin. The more the better!

Let your cap collection inspire yours and your child's creativity! You might try a few of these ideas and think of even more as you go:

- **Getting Familiar.** Caps and lids might be brand new objects for infants to explore by handling and mouthing them. Talk to infants about what they're doing as they explore and make it fun by copying along or making up songs about the colors and shapes.
- **Does it Fit?** Some caps will fit inside other caps! Which ones fit and which ones don't? Which ones get stuck? Do any fit on your head like a hat?!
- **Filling, Dumping, & Sorting.** Add a few bowls or bins to fill with the caps and dump. Notice if your child is interested in sorting them. How many ways can you sort? Size, color, shape? Do you have any identical caps?
- **Stacking & Building.** How tall can you make your cap tower? What other structures can you build?
- **Artful Arrangements.** Lay caps flat on the table in creative shapes. What can you make? A flower, a face, a snowman?
- **Pattern Play.** Do you notice any patterns in your caps? Can you make a repeating pattern?

