

This stimulating Sight and Sound Drum features four tubes, each holding a different visually engaging material (bells, beads, marbles and diffraction foil), plus a set of clacking wooden spheres. The entire drum spins with the slightest effort and the individual tubes also spin. Some of the individual tubes make interesting noises as they spin. The drum is ideal for developing hand-eye coordination, and fine and gross motor skills, as well as exploring cause and effect.

Research shows that sensory play in the early years builds nerve connections in the brain's pathways. This beautifully crafted resource has been thoughtfully developed to maximize this special time in a child's development.



Tummy time play

We all know how important tummy time is for babies, helping to strengthen their back, neck and shoulders. It gives even the youngest baby a different view of the world!

- The Sight and Sound Drum provides a perfect focal point for a baby enjoying tummy time. Slowly turn the drum to engage very young babies in the visual and sound effects.
- Allow older ones to explore it for themselves, experiencing the joy of making something happen whilst they build their hand-eye coordination and perceptual motor skills.

Rotational schema

Schematic play happens when babies and toddlers repeat actions over and over, and so explore the world around them through play. Rotational schema is the exploration of things that turn, twirl, spin, roll and rotate. So, the Sight and Sound Drum will be hugely popular with children showing rotational schema.

- As they spin the whole drum, seize the opportunity to talk about fast and slow. Let them see how fast it can go! Can they make it turn slowly?
- Take time to explore each tube, watching them as they spin.



Language Development

What can you see? Think beyond the obvious and seize every chance to extend vocabulary, either by using alternative words to describe the contents of each tube, or by adding attributes.

- What can you see? I can see bells. Or are they silver bells? Or small, silver bells? Or maybe small, sparkling, silver bells. Or even five small, sparkling, silver bells?
- What can you hear? I can hear the bells make a tinkling sound. Or are they jingle bells?
- What other sounds can you hear? Can you hear a tinkle, jingle, swoosh, clack, thud, etc.
- You may find it helpful pin up some vocabulary word prompts around your setting – for you to use with the children to extend their vocabulary beyond the obvious.

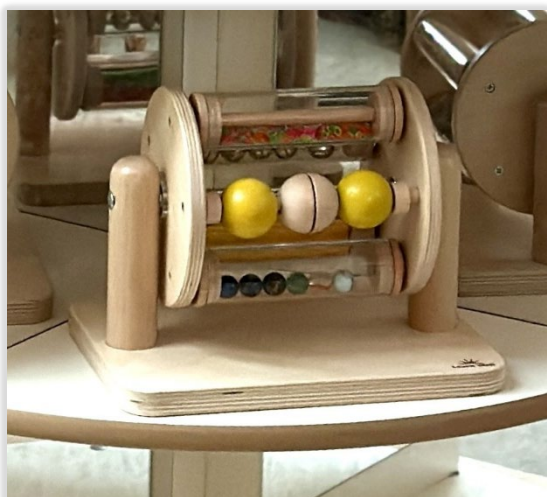


Light play

- Shine a torch onto the Sight and Sound Drum as it spins. Take some time to spin the diffraction tubes. Children will love to see the way they glint and sparkle in the light.
- If you have a UV torch, shine it on the bead tube and see how the different colored beads glow. What colors can you see?
- For preschoolers, ask how many beads they think there are. Can they guess? How would they count them? Have some fun with big numbers! Do they think there are a trillion? What might that look like?

Mirror play

Place a mirror or two around the Sight and Sound Drum and watch as it turns! Let children play and explore the wonder of reflection.



Preschooler play

Older children will enjoy exploring the Sight and Sound Drum in a different way. They might turn each drum methodically, looking closely at what is inside in tube, or play with fast spins and slow spins.

You could count as the drum spins. Who can make the longest spin?

Self-access and choice

Toddlers will enjoy choosing from a variety of sensory toys. You could create an area with several on display, ready for play. Which is their favorite today?

Quiet time and emotional regulation

Taking time out of a busy day to quietly sit and explore a toy like the Sight and Sound Drum is an excellent way to build self-regulation skills. You could create a quiet corner with cozy cushions, blankets and soft lighting where children can enjoy using the drum.



Get talking – useful words

Rotate, spin, twirl, move, swirl, sparkle, color, reflection, sound, jingle, tinkle, bell, clack, click, fast, slow, rock.

Books about sights and sounds

Rumble in the Jungle by Giles Andreae

The Sound We Found by Rhian Hoccom, H el ene Somerville and Lisa Farquhar

I Hear a Pickle by Rachel Isadora

What a Wonderful World by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss