HOW TO MAKE A TREASURE BASKET:

A treasure basket is a shallow sturdy basket containing a collection of everyday items. Most of the objects are in everyday use by adults and are made of natural materials. The items in the basket vary in weight, size, texture, colour, taste, temperature and sound all the items are chosen to stimulate one or more of the five senses. Children explore the Treasure Basket using their senses to discover what an object is, what it is like and perhaps what it does when shaken or manipulated. Treasure Baskets are also a resource that parents can create cheaply and easily at home.

The Treasure Basket should be made out of some natural material NOT plastic. The basket should be filled to the brim with objects to allow your child plenty of scope to sort through and select what appeals to them. A variety of objects are required to allow for choice. By offering a whole range of objects, which are not plastic we increase the opportunities for a child to explore and learn.

Ensure all items included in the basket are safe (no sharp edges and not too small)

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR TREASURE BASKET:

Objects that rattle. Choose varying shapes and materials that produce different sounds. These offer instant reward for effort and there entertainment value for a child is immense.

Objects that fit inside one another, such as boxes and pegs or graded measuring spoons. These help children to discover ideas about size, shape and combining objects.

Building and demolition articles, which fit together and take apart, such as wooden blocks, zipped leather purse, a box with a lid. These may encourage your child to combine objects and to notice smaller details and encourage finer manipulative skills.

The following items have proved to be popular in a Treasure Basket:

Small bowls large beads on a string

Bamboo whistle wooden lemon squeeze

Closed tins containing different sounds cloth bags containing scent

Bean bag various fabrics e.g. lace, satin, leather

Pan scourer wooden foot massager

Pastry brush cane coaster

Empty boxes- various sizes wooden and metal curtain rings

Glasses case leather bag and purse

Avocado pear stone bottle brush

Velvet hair bands and scrunchies orange/ lemon

Odds and ends like notebooks, small purses or small boxes.

ROLE OF THE ADULT

Ensure your child is seated comfortably. The basket should be continually changing and evolving with the introduction of new objects.

The objects in the basket need care and maintenance- regular washing or wiping, replacement of damaged items. Check objects regularly.

The adult should sit nearby, not talking or intervening unless the child needs attention. However be attentive and respond to your child's needs.

Lastly enjoy the basket with your child.