

ACTIVITY: SQUEEZE PLAY

Supplies Needed:

- Two wooden spoons
- Tongs
- Tweezers
- Ice cube tray
- Objects in various weights and sizes (non-breakable)
 - Small food boxes
 - Cereal boxes
 - Deck of cards
 - Soft balls
 - Bottle of water (unopened)
- Various items that fit into the ice cube tray (be aware of choking hazards)
 - Dice
 - Eraser tops
 - Small pom poms

Process:

1. Begin by taking tiny items and placing them in several of the ice cube slots.
2. Use the tweezers to move the items from slot to slot. Is using the tweezers easier or harder than using your fingers?
3. Now try moving bigger items across the table (or across the room) with the tongs.
4. What is the heaviest item you can move using the tongs?
5. Try and organize the items you move from lightest to heaviest, or smallest to biggest.
6. Now take the two wooden spoons and try to move the same objects you used the tongs to move before. What's different? Is it easier or harder?

Suggested Adult Interactions:

- Have your child explain how they think the tweezers helps them move the items.
- Ask you child if they think the tweezers would work on heavier things. Why or why not?
- Discuss with your child the weight of things. Compare the size and weight of each other. Could the tongs be used to lift a person up?
- You hold the tweezers and your child the tongs. At the same time, "use" your tool and compare the similarities and differences of each.
- Look for pictures on the internet of loggers lifting trees, or boats being lifted out of the water.
- Create a chart that shows what items you can lift with tweezers and what items you can lift with tongs.
- Think about how wheels can help move a heavy object.

Skills Developed:

- Small muscle control (needed for handwriting)
- Eye-hand coordination
- Pincher grip
- Large muscle strength
- Mathematic and Scientific thinking skills such as observation, comparison, and ordering

Reading Books:

- *How Do You Lift a Lion* by Robert E. Wells
- *Just a Little Bit* by Ann Tompert
- *Trucks (Baby Touch and Feel)* DK Publishing

Adult References:

- *Science Play: Beginning Discoveries for 2-to-6-year-olds* by Jill Frankel Hauser

Next time you are here:

Head to the 2nd floor *World Works* gallery and check out the lift and conveyor belt.

How does that work to lift and move objects? Compare it to the way the crane in the gallery lifts objects.

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Smart Play

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