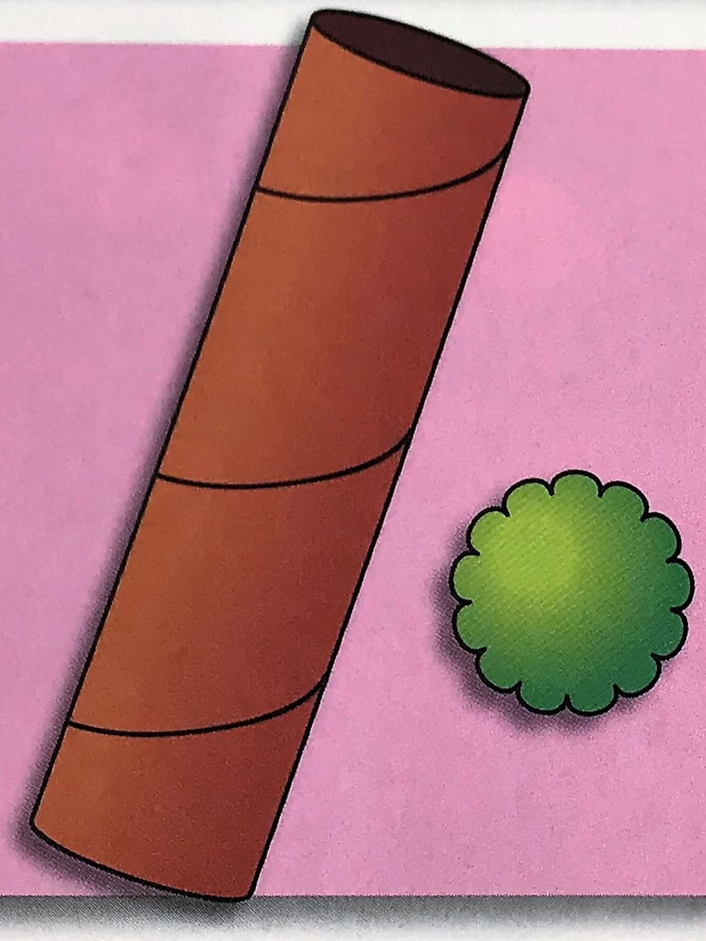
Cardboard Tubes

Familiar Faces

Pretend play

Attach a full-length photo cutout of each child to a separate small cardboard tube. Then place the resulting props in your block area. Youngsters use the props to enhance their block play.



Pass It Along

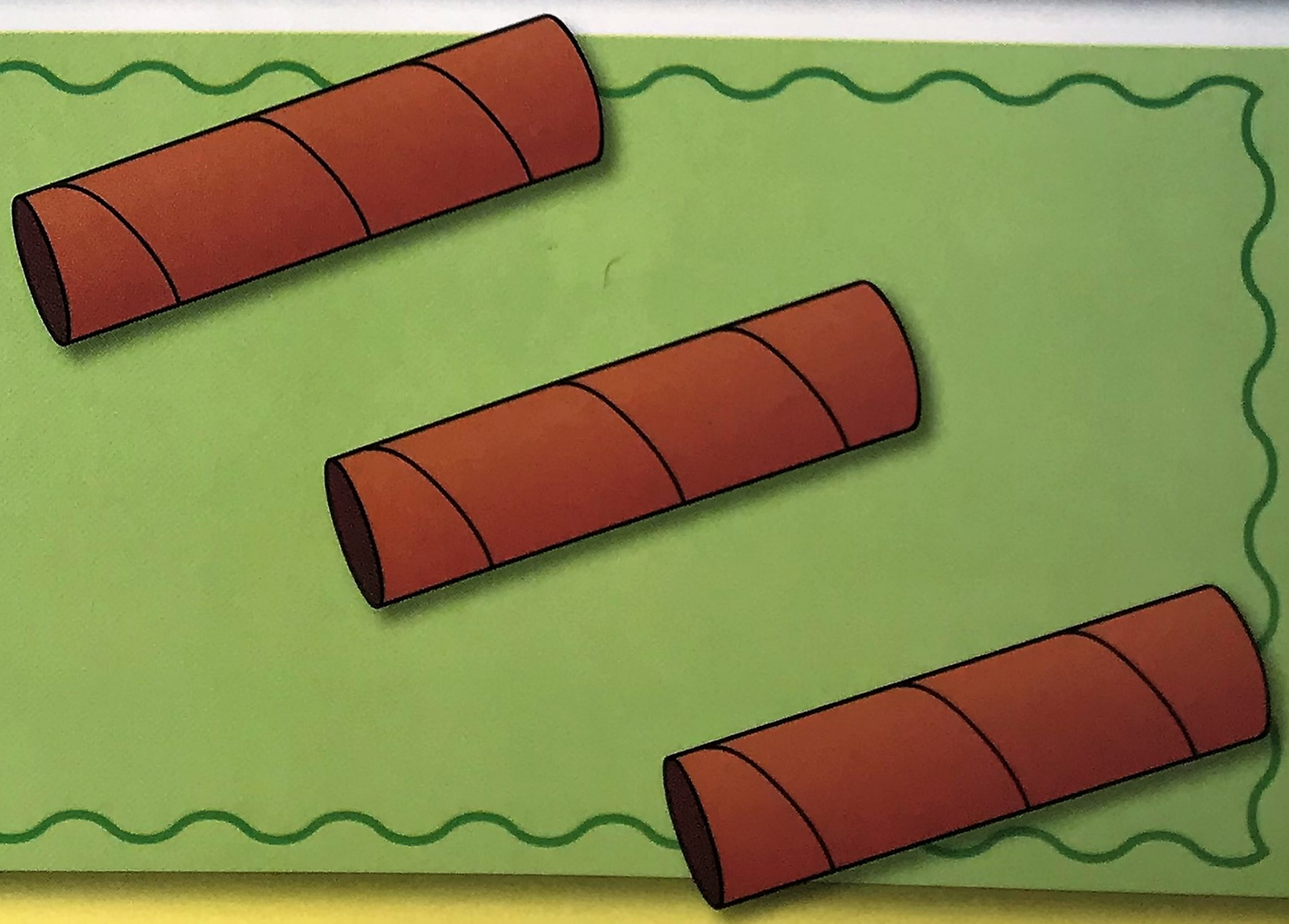
Hand-eye coordination

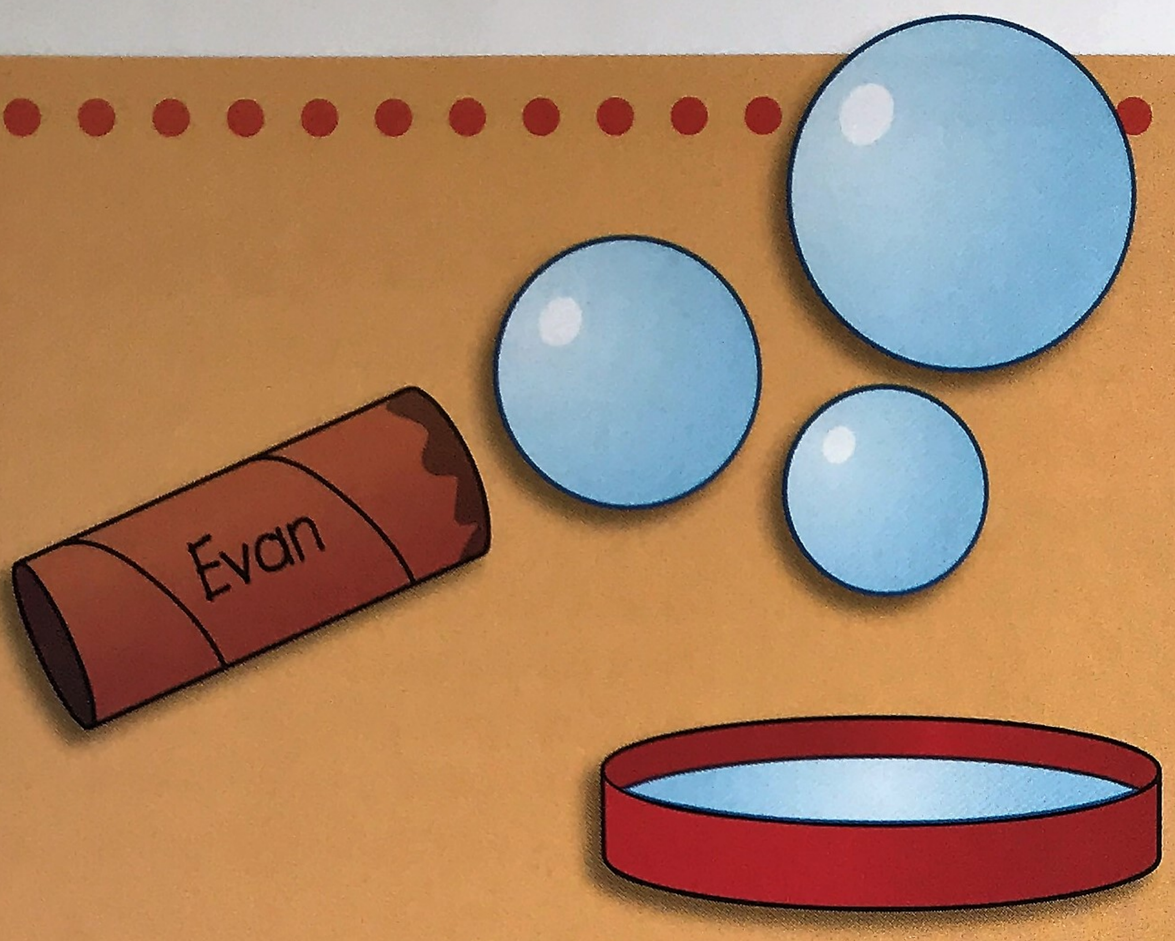
Seat students in a circle and give each child a cardboard tube. Demonstrate how to cover one end of the tube with your hand. Place a pom-pom in the open end of the tube and then transfer the pom-pom to the tube of a child next to you. Encourage each child to transfer the pom-pom in the same way to move it around the circle.

Log Jump

Gross-motor skills

Attach large cardboard tubes to your floor as shown so they resemble logs. Encourage students to pretend they are frogs and jump over the logs.





Bubbles, Bubbles

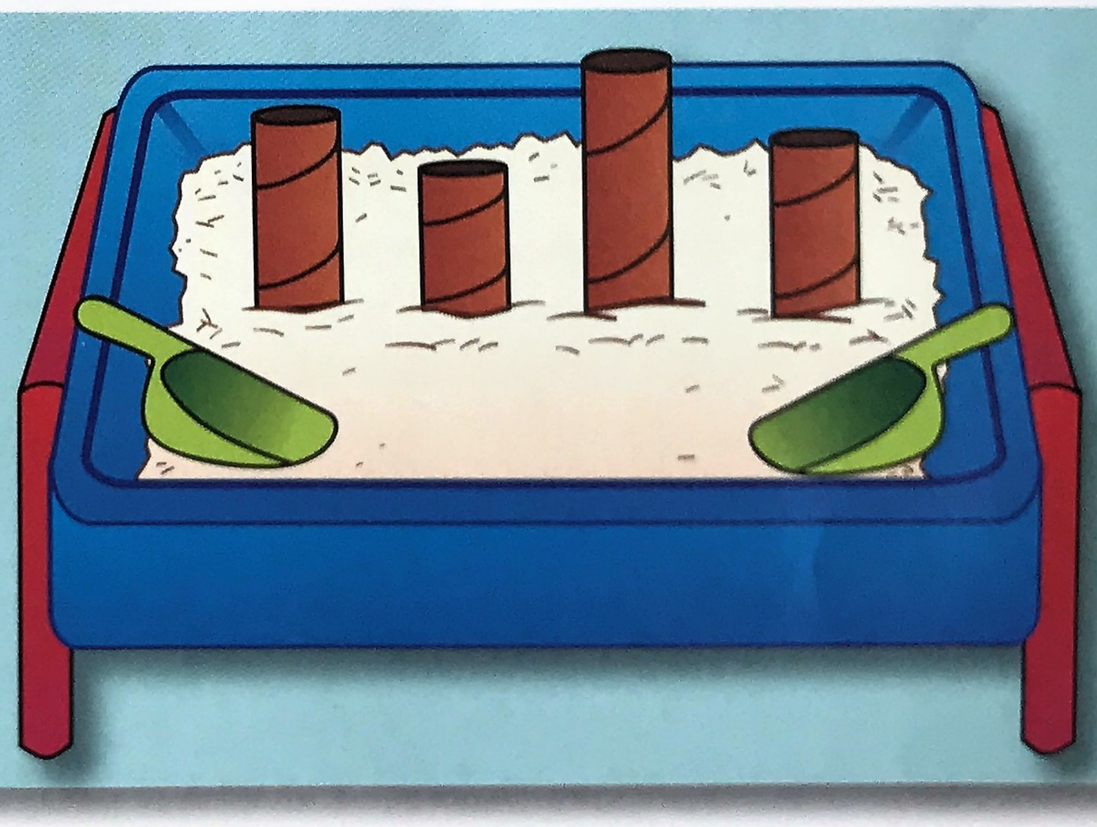
Investigating cause and effect

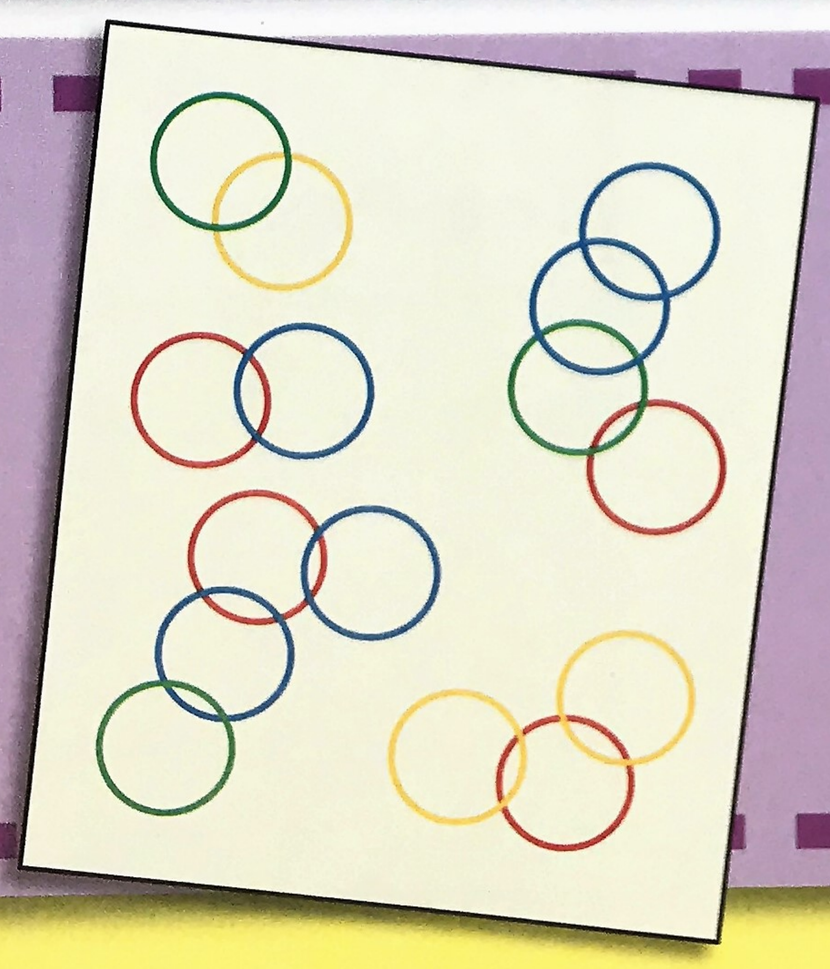
Fill a shallow container with bubble solution and give each child a cardboard tube labeled with his name. Invite each child to dip one end of his tube into the solution and then blow through the opposite end to make bubbles.

Scoop and Pour

Counting and comparing

Trim cardboard tubes to different lengths. Then stand the tubes in rice in your sensory table and provide several small scoops. Have a child count aloud the number of scoops of rice it takes to fill a tube. Encourage her to repeat the process with a different-size tube; then have her compare the number of scoops needed to fill each one.

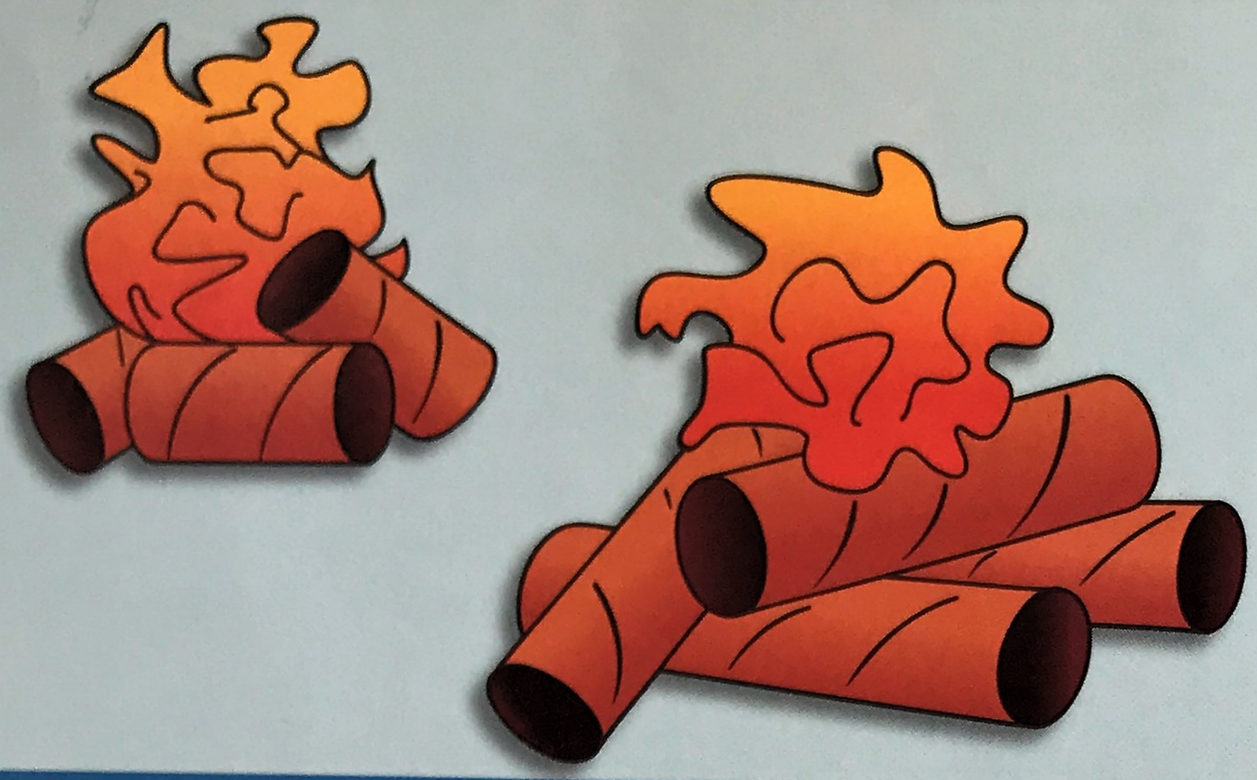




Totally Tubular

Art

Place at a table several shallow containers of paint. A child dips one end of a cardboard tube in paint and then presses it on a sheet of paper. He repeats the process with different tubes and paint colors.



Cozy Campfires

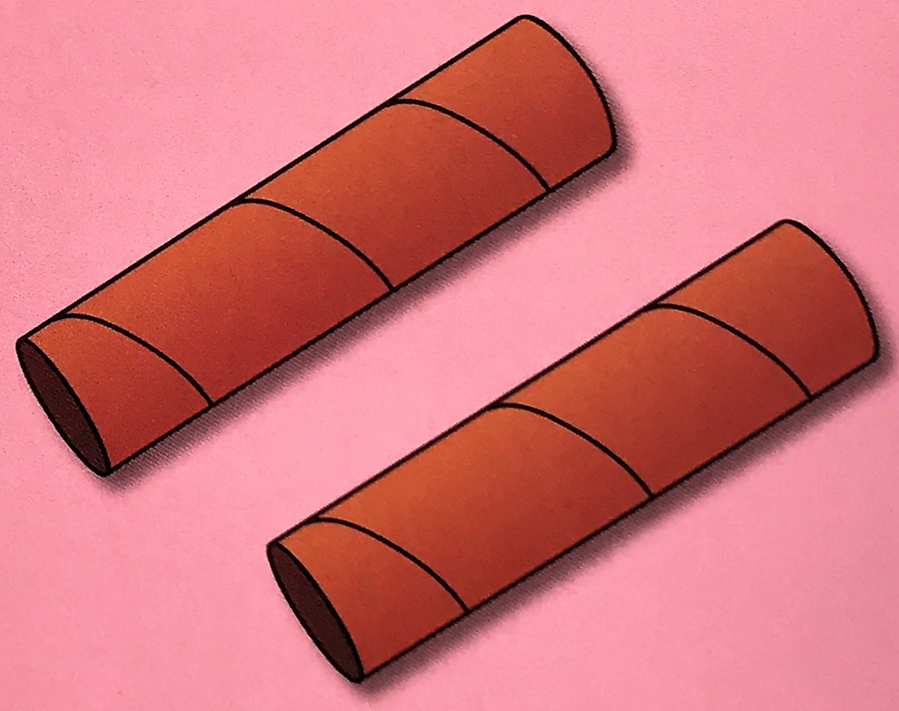
Sorting by size

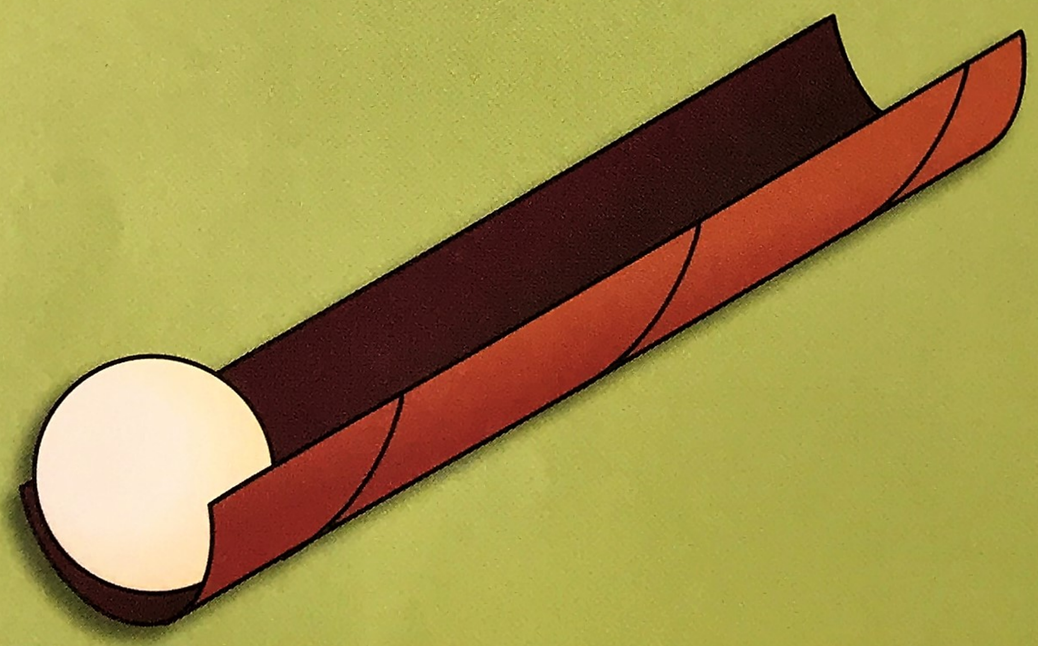
Provide a supply of long and short cardboard tubes (logs). Students sort the logs into two piles. Then they place crumpled orange tissue paper atop each pile so it resembles a campfire. Have students use the campfires during pretend play.

Whisper Tubes

Oral language

Gather youngsters in a circle and give each child a tube. Place a tube against the ear of the child next to you and whisper a short phrase into the tube. Have that child repeat the phrase in the same manner to his neighbor. Continue until each child has had a turn; then have the last child announce the phrase to the group.





Ping-Pong Chute

Investigating motion

Cut paper towel tubes in half lengthwise to make chutes. Give each child a chute and a Ping-Pong ball. Have her place one end of the chute on the floor and then roll the ball down the chute. Encourage her to repeat the activity, raising and lowering one end of her chute to see how it affects the ball's speed.

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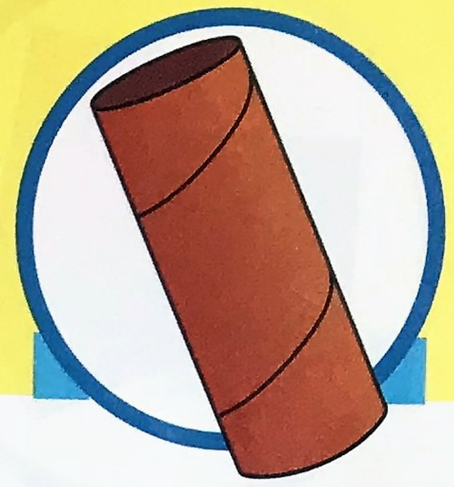
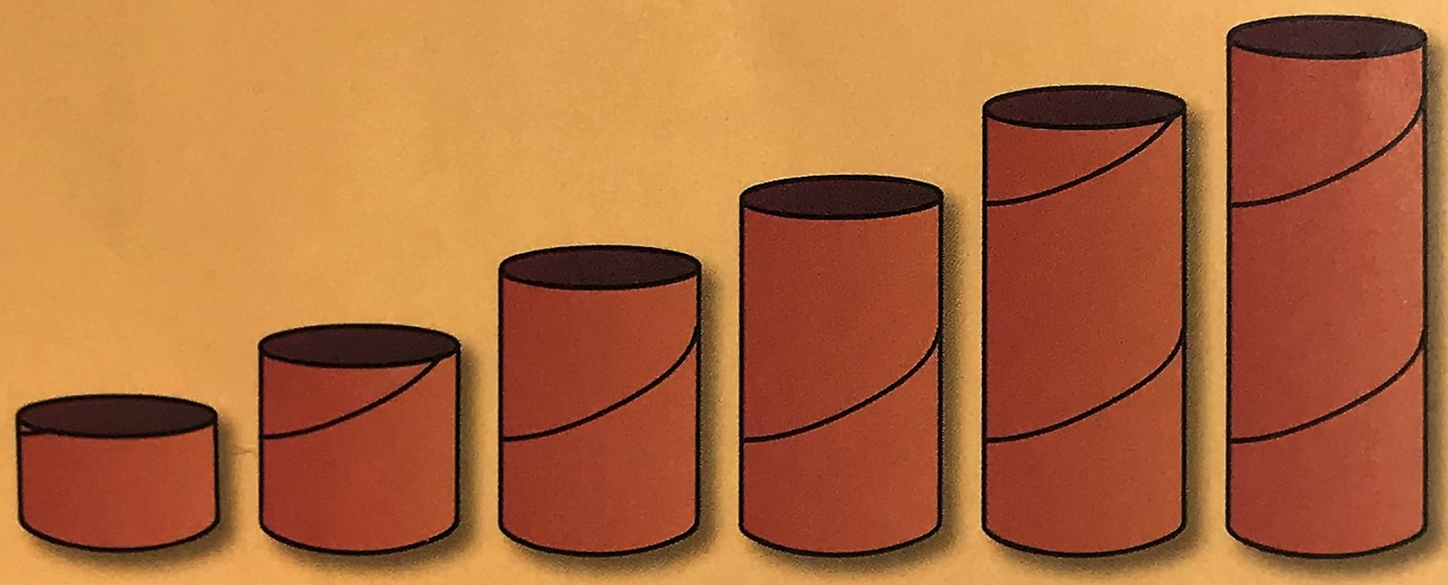
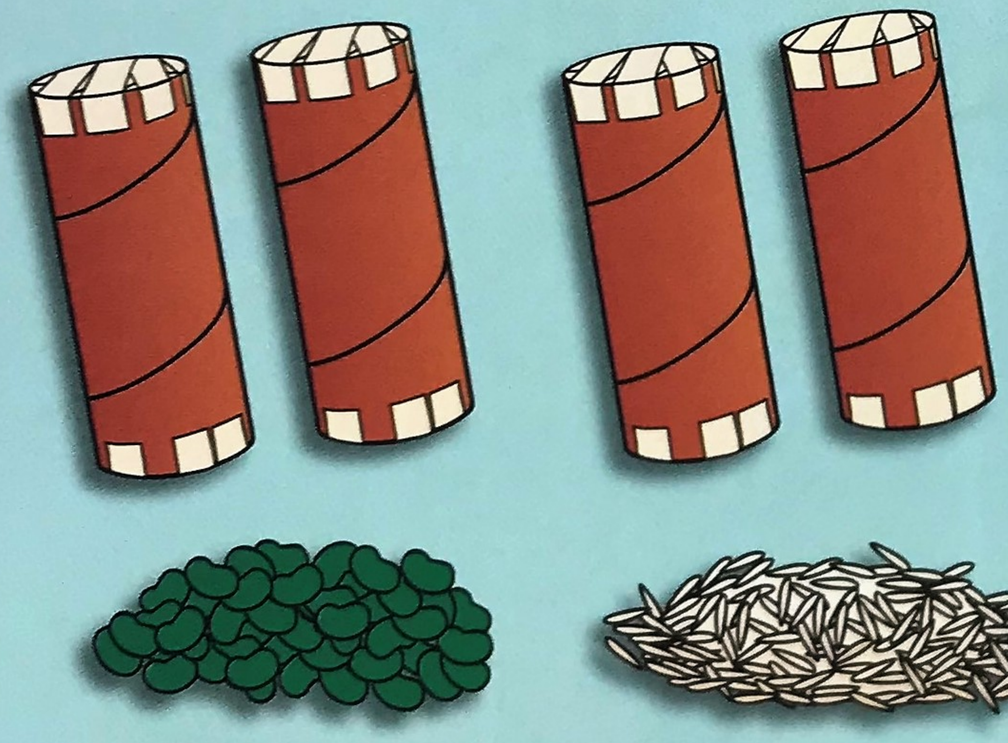


Short and Long

Ordering by size

Cut cardboard tubes in graduated sizes. Challenge a child to arrange the tubes in size order from shortest to longest. Then encourage her to mix up the tubes and arrange them from longest to shortest.





Give It a Shake

Auditory discrimination

Collect a variety of objects such as beans, rice, and bells. Use the objects and heavy-duty tape to make pairs of tube shakers. A student shakes the tube shakers and arranges them in pairs to show the matching sounds.

Rhythm Tubes

Creative movement

Give each child a cardboard tube with crepe paper streamers attached to one end. Play a recording of music with a variety of tempos and encourage each child to move creatively to the music.

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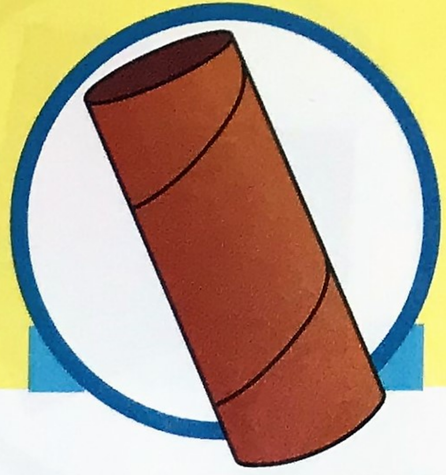

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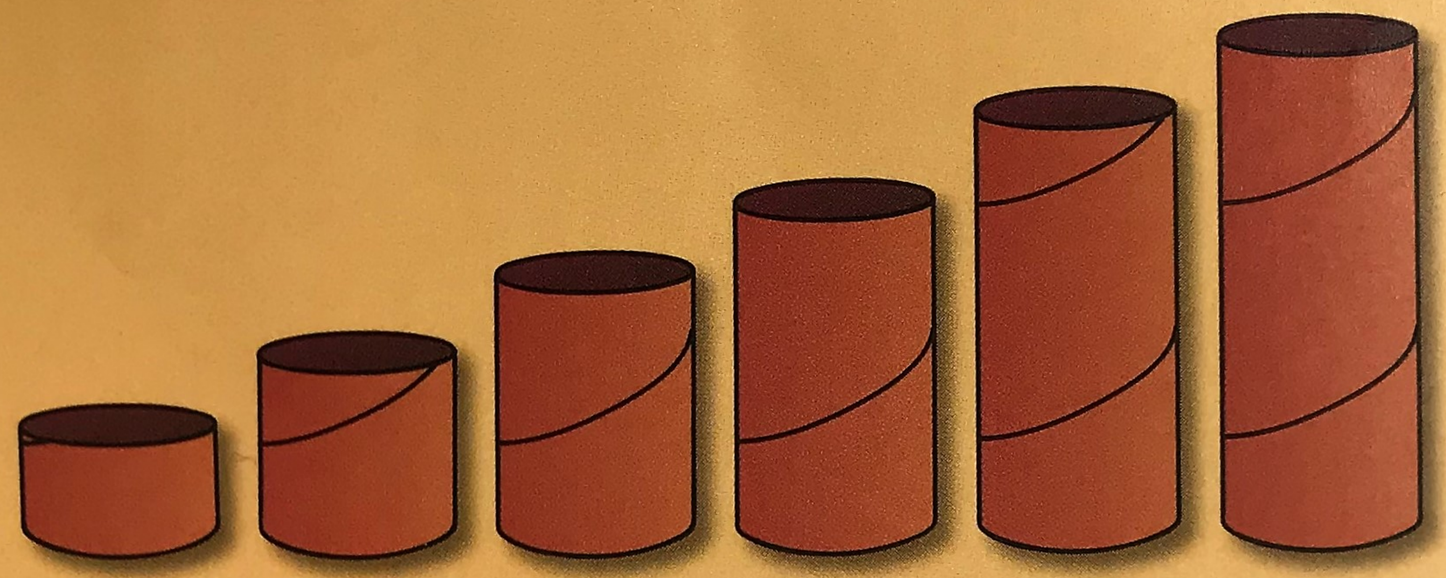

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