

Activity Ideas



Mirror Chimeabout & Fluorescent Mirror Chimeabout

E00035 & E0129

There is a reason the Mirror Chimeabout has become a national treasure – it gives so much joy! As the 12 hanging chimes move outwards when the hub is spun, the bells attached to the chimes start to tinkle and the mirrors catch the light. Like a magical carousel it brings awe and wonder with every spin! The mirrored chimes reflect colours, light and images of the immediate surroundings back to the child.

Take it outside into the sunshine and watch the rainbows dance! A brilliant multi-sensory resource because little actions bring such big rewards.

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.



Rotational Schema



Schematic play happens when children 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. The Mirror Chimeabout and Fluorescent Mirror Chimeabout are perfect toys for rotational play. Children will enjoy making them turn by rotating the spokes of the hub. Making it move fast and slow. Watching it spin round and round. No batteries required!

- ★ Use this fascination as an opportunity for language development. Use different words to describe the activity.
- ★ Use this interest as an opportunity to explore cause and effect. Can you make it spin faster/slower?
- ★ What happens when you rock it? What sound do the bells make as they move?

Collect lots of things together that can turn, spin, roll and rotate. Children will enjoy exploring them all.



Together Time

The Chimeabouts have a 'for ages 3 years upwards' safety warning so do not leave unattended. But do take them opportunity to sit with children and explore it together. Gently turn the spoke and watch as the chimes sway, listen as the bells tinkle.

- ★ Can you hear the sound the bells make as the chimes tinkle? Talk about the sound they make. Do they jingle, tinkle, click and clack?
- ★ Look at the reflections in the mirrors – what can you see?
- ★ Give it a spin and watch in wonder as it turns round and round like a magical carousel.

Make this a gentle quiet time, maybe before a nap, or if you see that the little ones need time to be calm and connect.



Let's Go Outside

Just add a little sunshine! Take the Mirror Chimeabout outside and see what happens when you spin it in the sunshine.

- ★ Can you see the little rainbows of light that appear all around?
- ★ Encourage the children to spin round and round like the Chimeabout. Or run around it chasing the rainbows.
- ★ Seize the opportunity to enrich their language with words to describe the light show.

What happens when you spin it faster or slower?

- ★ Can you see the shadows too? What happens to the shadows when the Mirror Chimeabout Spins? Suggest the children spin in pairs – one shadows the other.



Reflection Collection

The Mirror Chimeabouts are the perfect focal point for exploring reflections.

Place it on a mirror, or if you have a stand-up mirror place it behind.

Add some sunshine and or torches and allow the children to explore light and reflections.

Add some interesting natural objects like flowers, leaves, seashells, etc. and allow children to place them around the mirrors and explore reflections.

Dark Den Play Time

Take the Fluorescent Mirror Chimeabout into a dark den, or simply turn out the lights, and switch on a UV torch.

- ★ Let the children watch in awe as the chimes light up. What colours are they?
- ★ Let the children brush the chimes with their hands and watch them sway in the dark. Can they hear the bells tinkle?
- ★ Now it's time to spin the hub, so step back and get ready to be amazed!

Encourage the children to quietly sit and watch and listen as the Chimeabout spins and spins. Its mesmerising effect is the perfect way to give children a quiet, calm time together.

Carousels

Ask the children if they have been to a fairground and seen a real-life carousel. If you can find some photographs or videos to show them. Take time to look at the horses and the way they are painted. Can you give them names? Perhaps make up a story about the magical horses?

Watch what happens when the carousel turns, and the horse gradually move out.

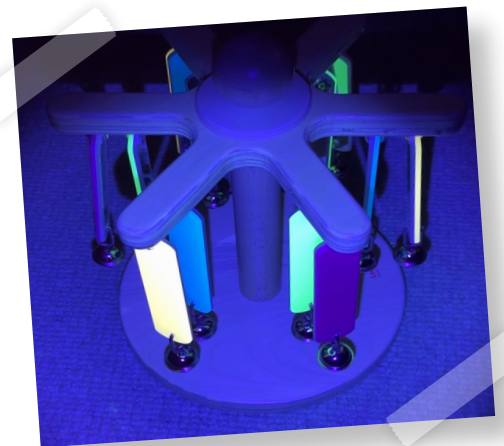
Now look at the Chimeabout and watch as the chimes move out when you turn the hub...just like the horses.

Get talking – useful words:

rotate
spin
turn
fast
slow

reflection
sound
jingle
jangle
tinkle

light
sparkle
rainbow
twirl
carousel



Turn the lights out and watch the chimes glow!