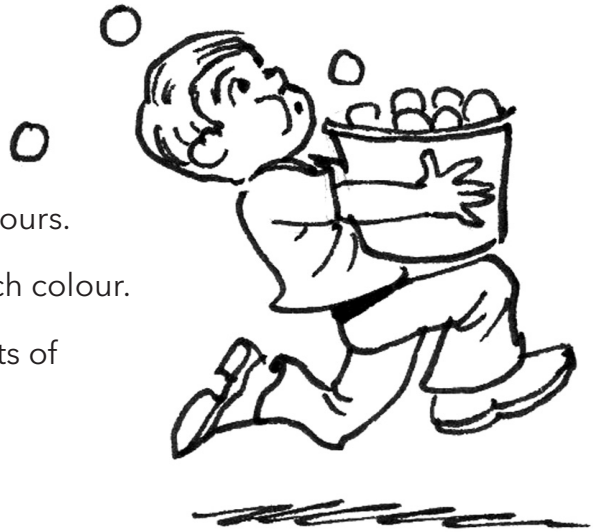


Buckets and Balls

What you need:

- Lots of lightweight, plastic balls (such as those used in ball pits) of two different colours.
- Two large containers or crates, one for each colour.
- A selection of other containers and buckets of different sizes.
- Sand timers.



What you do:

- Provide a container of red balls and a container of blue balls and place them a distance apart. Challenge the children to move the red balls into the blue container and the blue balls into the red container. Observe how they work together and organise themselves (or not!). Use a sand timer to give more urgency to the activity - can all the balls be moved before the sand timer runs out?

Questions and prompts:

- Can you carry more balls in two small buckets than in one large bucket?
- Do you think there are more red balls than blue balls in this container?
- How many buckets can you carry at once?
- How fast can you run without dropping any balls?

Extend the play:

- Set up three empty buckets and challenge the children to throw a ball into each bucket. Once they have thrown at each bucket they take a step backwards and try again. You could place a marker on the ground and, once they have gone back as far as the marker, they could continue by stepping towards the buckets.
- How many balls are in the middle bucket?
- A selection of other containers and buckets of different sizes. How many more balls are in the green bucket than in the red bucket?
 - How far away from the buckets can you stand and still manage to throw balls into them?