

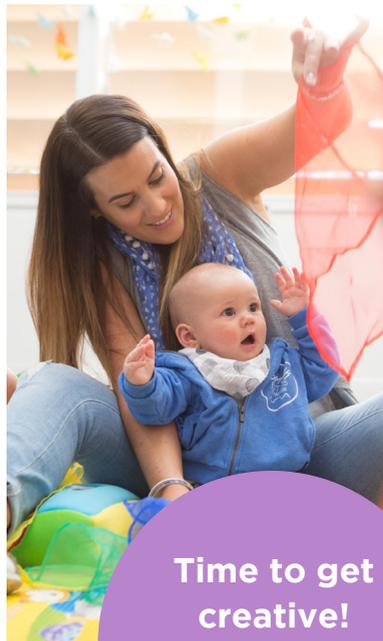
# Heuristic Treasure Baskets

The term **Heuristic play** describes the activity of babies and children as they play with and explore the properties of 'objects'. These objects are things from the real world.

Heuristic play involves the sensory exploration of everyday items such as pasta, a wooden spoon, a piece of string or leaves in the garden. The difference between heuristic play and playing with toys is that toys are often limiting in what they can do, meaning a car is meant to be rolled back and forth, while heuristic play with any household object allows your child's creativity to take over.

Having an everyday object to play with stimulates innovation, creativity and imagination as your child discovers the ways the object can be used. Heuristic play stimulates creativity and imagination.

Imagination leads a child's play with heuristic objects, rather than muscle memory taking over when a child knows that a noise happens when they push a button, for example. During heuristic play, open-ended play opportunities allow children to explore, learn and develop in a completely natural way.



**Time to get creative!**

See the next page for heuristic play ideas and inspiration



