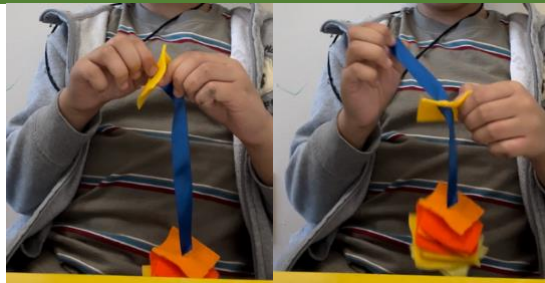


Buttoning

The foundations of key life occupations are developed during early childhood. Among these tasks are eating, dressing, playing, learning, social participation, resting and sleeping, as well as chores. To support these occupations, cognitive, motor, social-emotional, and self-care skills must be developed. In order to button clothes, fine motor movements are required, such as reaching, grasping, manipulating objects, and coordinating between hands. In addition, it requires cognitive skills in planning and sequencing and visual-motor skills such as eye-hand coordination and visual attention to tasks.

Strategies for Struggles

- Putting stickers next to the button for visual cues on where to place hands
- Using larger buttons
- Putting coins into a small container with a slit opening
- Practice passing loose buttons through clothing hole while clothes are placed on flat surface
- Make a button snake
- Cut out an old shirt so the child works with less material
- Matching stickers for child to match the correct button to the correct hole
- Make up a story to help child learn the sequence
- Use backward chaining where adult provides assistance throughout several steps until the child can complete the last steps independently



Making a Button Snake

- Cut out different colored squared pieces of felt at 2.5 inches each
- Gather a thick piece of ribbon and sew a button smaller than 2.5 inches on to one side of the ribbon
- Add a knot to the other side of the ribbon
- Cut slits in the center of each piece of felt to allow the button to go through

Child will fit the felt over the button and pull down to the end of the ribbon where the knot is provided to act as a stopper

References

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