



Practical Pre-School Award-Winning Products 2008

Reflections On Learning are proud to announce that the following products have been selected from over 200 others to receive recognition in the 2008 Practical Pre-School Awards. Tested according to durability, adaptability, educational value, play value and value for money by a panel of child care professionals; these resources have been acknowledged as some the best Early Years resources on the market today.



MAGFORMERS



This 124-piece set contains three different shaped pieces, square, triangle and hexagon. Rotating magnets are embedded into the sides of the shape, allowing Magformers to always connect regardless of their polarity. The robust shapes are easily connected to build both net and solid structures. Children can create free standing structures or arrange the Magformers on a flat surface and lift them in to the air to watch a 3D shape materialise. Testers said, "The product was fantastic – with immediate appeal and it excited children, and sustained their interest throughout testing. It was very versatile and helped develop shape recognition, awareness of magnetism and shape and colour sorting. It inspired individual and group play, and sparked many lively interactions. The children were able to make ambitious constructions and lovely shapes and models with the Magformers, either using their own or following the simple illustrations." Another tester said, "It was the best product I've ever tested and the best shape resource ever used. A well made and sturdy product that really appealed to staff and children."

Magformers Pk 124 in Tray, £99

BALANCE STAIRS



A colourful set of 8 steps, (2 sets of 4,) which can be linked together in a variety of configurations for physical play. The set-up possibilities are extensive, enabling children to develop gross motor skills from sitting up, balancing, following and demonstrating the control necessary to hold a fixed position. The Balance Stairs also stack together neatly for easy storage.

Testers said, "We have been delighted to have the Balance Stairs! They are in daily use in our outside classroom. They are an excellent quality piece of apparatus – lovely finish, heavy enough to be able to be stable and light enough to move in and out. They have been used across different areas of the curriculum but outstandingly so in the physical area. We have arranged the pieces in many different ways and incorporated them into role-play and games. Children with balancing difficulties have a good sense of achievement using the lower blocks."

Balance Stairs, £115

DELTASAND STARTER SET



Deltasand is a completely unique and almost indescribable new material. Children are instantly intrigued by Deltasand when they first begin to experiment with it. For a start, it does not look, feel or behave like traditional play sand; it is light in colour and weight, moulds in to near perfect replicas of whatever it is contained in, floats on water, and can be baked hard and then reconstituted back in to its original form. The Deltasand Starter Set comprises a starter 900g bag of Deltasand, 6 castle moulds, 2 carving spatulas, and a clever inflatable play-base. The base keeps the sand fresh, clean and contained, and can simply be folded in half with a Velcro fastening and carry handles for ease of use and stowage. The bottom of the tray also has a clear pocket covering the whole of the base area so that pictures, drawings or maps can be slipped in to form a background on which to play and create. Deltasand contains no water, therefore it never dries out and is 100% reusable.

Deltasand Starter Set, £19.99

ZAK'S BONES



Zak's Bones is a unique resource which allows children to understand the makeup of the human body and skeleton. Comprising a set of A4 semi-transparent sheets displaying on one side an image of Zak, and on the other the bones of Zak's body. When held up to a light source, (such as a light box or window,) both images can be seen at once with the bones showing through as if Zak were made of a transparent material. This gives young children the opportunity to visualise their own skeleton and identify the bones associated with each body part in a way that no other product has been able to do before. Sheets come with bones labelled for easy identification and discussion. Body part sheets include the entire skeleton, the arm, leg, chest, hand, foot, pelvis and skull. Zak's Bones present a variety of learning outcomes. By demonstrating to children the surprising complexity of what lies beneath their skin, they can begin to develop an understanding of and respect for their own bodies. The innovative and fun element of the product captivates children's interest in the topics of anatomy and movement, and can also be used as a visual aid for topics as diverse as health, nutrition and fitness.

Zak's Bones, £12.99

TOUCH & MATCH BOARD



Identify and match up the 12 tactile turned hardwood counters each with a differently textured top surface. Used as a game or for sensory stimulus, this simple yet effective resources is fantastic for introducing the ideas of colour, texture, sorting and matching.

Touch & Match Board, £9.99

ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT

**FOR ALL SAMPLE AND IMAGE REQUESTS, PLEASE CONTACT AMY DONOGHUE ON 01732 773399 OR
AMY@COMMOTIONGROUP.CO.UK**

Notes to the Editor

The Commotion Group was founded in 1983, specialising in distributing innovative educational products to pre-schools, schools, universities, trade suppliers and private customers.

The company has several catalogues segregated by brand; Reflections on Learning, Hands On and Commotion Solutions for Education, focusing respectively on pre-school, primary (key stage 1 & 2) and secondary (keys stage 3 &4) levels of education.

All products contained within the Commotion Group catalogues are carefully selected by our team of Catalogue Consultants- teachers whom are fully conversant with all aspects of the National Curriculum.

For further information or imagery please contact Amy Donoghue on 01732 773399/amy@commotiongroup.co.uk

Commotion House

Morley Road

Tonbridge

Kent,

TN9 1RA

Tel: 01732 773399

Fax: 01732 773390

www.commotiongroup.co.uk