



The Rotating Bell Flower is ideal for exploring sight and sound with young children and older ones with additional needs. The enclosed bells chime pleasantly as the flower is spun, making different sounds depending on the speed. Children will enjoy watching the bells move and because they are big and bright, it is a perfect toy for developing eye tracking skills, as well as hand-eye coordination. This delightfully engaging, developmentally appropriate educational toy is safe for infants and toddlers, and will inspire a range of sensory learning experiences.

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 babies and toddlers 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 Rotating Bell Flower is a perfect toy for rotational play.

- Children will enjoy making it turn by pushing down on the petals/spokes of the flower, making it move fast and slow, and watching it spin round and round. Use this fascination as an opportunity for language development by using different words to describe the activity.
- Use this interest as an opportunity to explore cause and effect. Can you make the flower spin faster or 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



Use the Rotating Bell Flower to enjoy a gentle quiet time together with a baby – maybe before a nap or if you see that the baby needs time to be calm and connect. This activity helps develop baby's eye tracking:

- Take time to sit with baby, facing the Rotating Bell Flower. Gently turn the flower and watch the bells move.
- Can you hear the sound the bells make as they tumble? Talk about the sound they make. Do they jingle, tinkle, click and clack?
- Look at the different colors of the bells.
- Look at the way that they move up and down. Baby will probably want to point to them and touch them.

# Let's get physical!

- With toddlers, spin the Rotating Bell Flower and see how long it spins. Watch as it comes slowly to a stop. With preschoolers, you can also count as the wheel goes round.
- In a clear space ask the toddlers to spin themselves around. Can they spin for as long as the Rotating Bell Flower? Let's try! Do this a few times spinning the wheel for gradually longer and longer times.

## Treasure basket

The Rotating Bell Flower is the perfect addition to a multi-sensory treasure basket play. Collect items with different textures, colors and sounds, and place them in a basket for baby to explore, adding the Rotating Bead Wheel alongside. Resources could include a chiffon scarf, a soft plush toy, a rattle and a teething chew.



## Themed play time

The Rotating Bell Flower is a very appealing addition to any themed tray play or display table, especially when the children haven't seen it for a while.

- Maybe your theme this week is space – the Rotating Bell Flower, with its star-like shape, will make a great addition to your tray play.
- Or perhaps the theme is fireworks – when you spin the Rotating Bell Flower, it looks like a spinning firework! Maybe you can encourage the children to add some 'whizz, bang' sounds as the wheel goes round.
- Of course, you can simply make the Rotating Bell Flower the center piece of an invitation to play with star shapes.

## Color search

- Can the children name all the bell colors (red, white, green, orange, purple, and pink)?
- For toddlers and older children, spin the Rotating Bell Flower and when it stops look at the color of the bells nearest to the base. Ask the children to find something that color – for example 'Can you find me something orange?' This can be a lovely physical activity moving around the setting inside and outside. Or you can just sit together and look around, pointing to the things you find.
- You can make this a game for two teams. The winning team is the first to collect, find or see something in each of the six colors.



## Books about colors

### Get talking – useful words

Rotate, spin, twirl, rock, turn, fast, slow, colors, sound, jingle, jangle, tinkle, color.

*The Crayons' Book of Colors* by Drew Daywalt

*A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni

*Colors* by John J. Reiss

*Red Rockets and Rainbow Jelly* by Nick Sharratt and Sue Heap