

What's in the box? Science and Curiosity for Tots

Notes for parents and carers at home

We first devised Tots Time Science for local libraries in Nottingham and thanks to support from Nottingham charity, Small Steps Big Changes, we have developed the series of activities and published a booklet for families to share at home.

In this online version we will suggest the simple steps you can take to create your own Curiosity 'What's in the Boxes?' activities.



Lots of boxes, which one to choose? Many different colours, many different sizes.

Look at all the boxes. Luke, Nefeli, Hans, Eleanor and Jessica like playing with the boxes.

What else is different about the boxes? Shall we play?

Find some boxes of different sizes (and shapes), preferably with a lid (or you could improvise with some old cardboard boxes and some wrapping paper), and then find some simple everyday objects to put inside.

We liked the idea that by hiding things in a box, there could be a guessing game..

What's in the box?

Luke plays with the smallest, this teeny tiny red round box.

Before we take off the lid, Luke gives it a little shake.

It doesn't make a noise – does that mean there is nothing inside, Luke?

Is it heavy? Is it light?

Let's open the lid and look inside. What is it?

Look Luke, the small red box has a mirror inside.

Who can you see? Are you bigger?

There are some clues that build curiosity before they open the lid. Is it heavy or light? Does it make a noise?

In this game we stuck a mirror to the bottom of the box; it happened to be a magnifying mirror, and Luke had fun because his image changed as he moved the box closer and further away from his face.

