

Talking Tub Guide

Early Years

What is the Talking Tub?

A Talking Tub is a collection of objects and prompts used to explore a topic and spark child-led learning. Children can explore the items, share their ideas and have these recorded (e.g. in a Floorbook). Educators can then use these ideas to plan future experiences such as movement transitions, calm spaces or active play.



The Talking Tub is a key element of the Talking and Thinking Floorbooks® approach by Dr Claire Warden. This guide provides a brief introduction, with further training available through Early Childhood Australia or Mindstretchers Academy.

What you will need

- Emotion cards
- Animal movement cards
- Yoga cards
- Breathing ball
- Small ball, bean bag
- Ribbon wands
- Balloons



Keep in mind trying to offer a variety of objects with different sensory influences to accommodate children's preferences and learning styles. Have you chosen something bright and visual, tactile and acoustic.

How does it work?

Keep in mind that the purpose of this is to encourage children to raise questions and inspire exploration.

Set up

- Gather the objects and pull them together into the tub or box.
- Prepare something to record the children's questions. Eg. Floorbook or another method.

Explore

- Explain that inside are things to help us move and feel different ways.
- Allow children to explore the resources. They could pull them out and examine them or pick an object and talk about what it reminds them of. Children can also demonstrate movements with the objects.

During the discussion

- Capture the children's thoughts and questions as they arise word-for-word.

Extend

- Further investigation and questioning from educators may lead to additional learning points.
- These responses created by the children can form the basis of additional learning experiences.

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Open prompting questions

As children are exploring and questioning, some of the below open questions may help to bring up further learning.

- What movement can we do with this?
- How does this make you feel?
- How does your body feel when you move fast?
- Do you like throwing or catching things?
- Do you like pushing or pulling things?



Extending the learning

- From here you can extend the learning and implement other experiences based on what was discussed.
- This will look different for every group of children. However some things may include:

Movement and play

- Creating a fun and fast obstacle course.
- Engaging children in heavy work such as pushing objects, doing an animal walk activity or jumping through markers.

Calming strategies

- Introducing breathing exercises after physical play or to help when feeling strong emotions.
- Trying yoga as an activity to reset and help with transitions.

Emotional learning

- Displaying feelings charts in the room.
- Use mirrors for children to explore facial expressions.
- Read and discuss stories to explore how characters feel.
- Revisit children's ideas in the Floorbook to reflect on emotions over time.

References:

Talking Tubs™ – The Spark for Child-Led Planning with Floorbooks®, Dr Claire Warden, Mindstretchers Academy, https://mindstretchers.academy/blogs/news/talking-tubs%E2%84%A2-the-spark-for-child-led-planning-with-floorbooks%C2%AE?srltid=AfmBOooCXDjWK8C2ZSbqkZBJE0h_OfHIE590YiRELgxUs36KQ3qR-gjG