



## Activity 1 SCIENCE

### Discovery Learning with Spinning Objects

Wow! I'm dizzy from all that spinning in Episode 4, "Come Spin With Us". Mary and Mike shared with us a spinning wheel, a hurdy-gurdy instrument, and a whirligig. Let's continue to explore things that spin.

### VA Unified Early Learning and Development Standards

- ✓ APL1.1 Being curious learners
- ✓ APL2.1 Playing with toys and materials
- ✓ APL3.3 Thinking flexibly
- ✓ APL3.2 Executive Functions and Cognition Self-Regulation
- ✓ SED1.2 Developing self-esteem and confidence
- ✓ HPD3.1 Using eyes and hands together
- ✓ CLLD1.3 Learning and engaging in conversational Interactions
- ✓ CD4.2 Learning about and through music
- ✓ CD4.4 Using visual arts media to develop skills and express thoughts and feelings

### Materials Needed

- Gather a collection of 10-12 random objects, such as: a coin, a magic marker, a CD, an egg (preferably plastic), a lid from a jar, dice, an empty water bottle, a ball, a toy spinning top, a bottle cap, a cork, a toy car, a rock, other miscellaneous items.

### Directions

Place all the found objects in a basket, box, or tray.  
Choose an area with a hard surface, such as the floor or table.

Select one of the objects and demonstrate how to give it a gentle twist to make it spin. Help your child develop their twisting motion with a few practice turns.

### Let the discovery begin!

Encourage your child to try spinning the various objects.  
There is no right or wrong way to experiment with these items. Your child should experiment by spinning objects in different ways, such as laying down flat, standing on the edge, etc...

Free exploration provides the perfect opportunity for you to engage in conversations that will both expand your child’s vocabulary as well as deepen their developing concept knowledge.

Ask lots of “WH” questions. For example:

- “**What** do you think will happen if...?”
- “**Which** object spins the best?”
- “**Why** do you think...?”
- “**Where** else can you find things that spin?”

Your child might want to look for other things to spin and this would be a great **Concept Sort**: “things that spin” and “things that don’t spin”!

### For an Extra Challenge

Have a spin-off competition. Spin two items at the same time and see which one spins for the longest time. Remove the object that stops first. Choose another object to spin at the same time with the object still in the competition. Remove the object that stopped first. Continue to eliminate objects until you declare the Champion Spinning Object.