



Roll a Marble Through the Door

Tilt the box and guide a marble through the little gates.

Helps Your Child Grow



Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Repeatedly guiding a marble through a small gate gives your child practice changing strategies and persisting when the first attempt does not work.

Steps

- A small challenge can give your child an inviting reason to try, adjust, and keep going. Today, make a route of little gates for a marble.
- Cut several strips of colored paper. Bend each strip into an arch and tape the ends inside a shallow cardboard box, leaving enough space between the gates.
- Place a marble in the box and demonstrate tilting the box gently to guide it through one gate.
- Invite your child to try. They can tilt the box in different directions and adjust the angle until the marble passes through a gate. If it misses, encourage another attempt.
- Once your child can guide the marble through the gates, invite them to write the numbers 1 through 5 on the gates and try following the route in order.
- Now the marble needs to travel from one numbered gate to the next. If it goes through the wrong gate, reposition the box and try again.

Tips

- When the numbered route becomes easy, try a new sequence using the gates you have, such as 1, 3, 5 or 2, 4.

Observations

- ☐ Keeps adjusting the angle and trying again when the marble does not pass through
- ☐ Writes the numbers 1 through 5 on the small doors in order