



Look with Your Eyes, Hands Down

Shake and listen to the rattle, then move from a wide opening to a smaller one while practicing looking, grasping, and releasing.

Helps Your Child Grow



Fine Motor

Picking up a stone, aligning it with the bottle opening, and releasing it gives your baby repeated practice coordinating vision and hand movement.



Imitation and Symbolic Representation and Play

Watching you drop a stone into the bottle and shake it encourages your baby to copy the action and sound.



What You'll Need



Two Clear Empty Bottles
One wide-neck; one narrow-neck

What You'll Need

1. Two clear empty containers, one with a wide opening and one with a narrower opening



Drop Stones into a Wide Opening

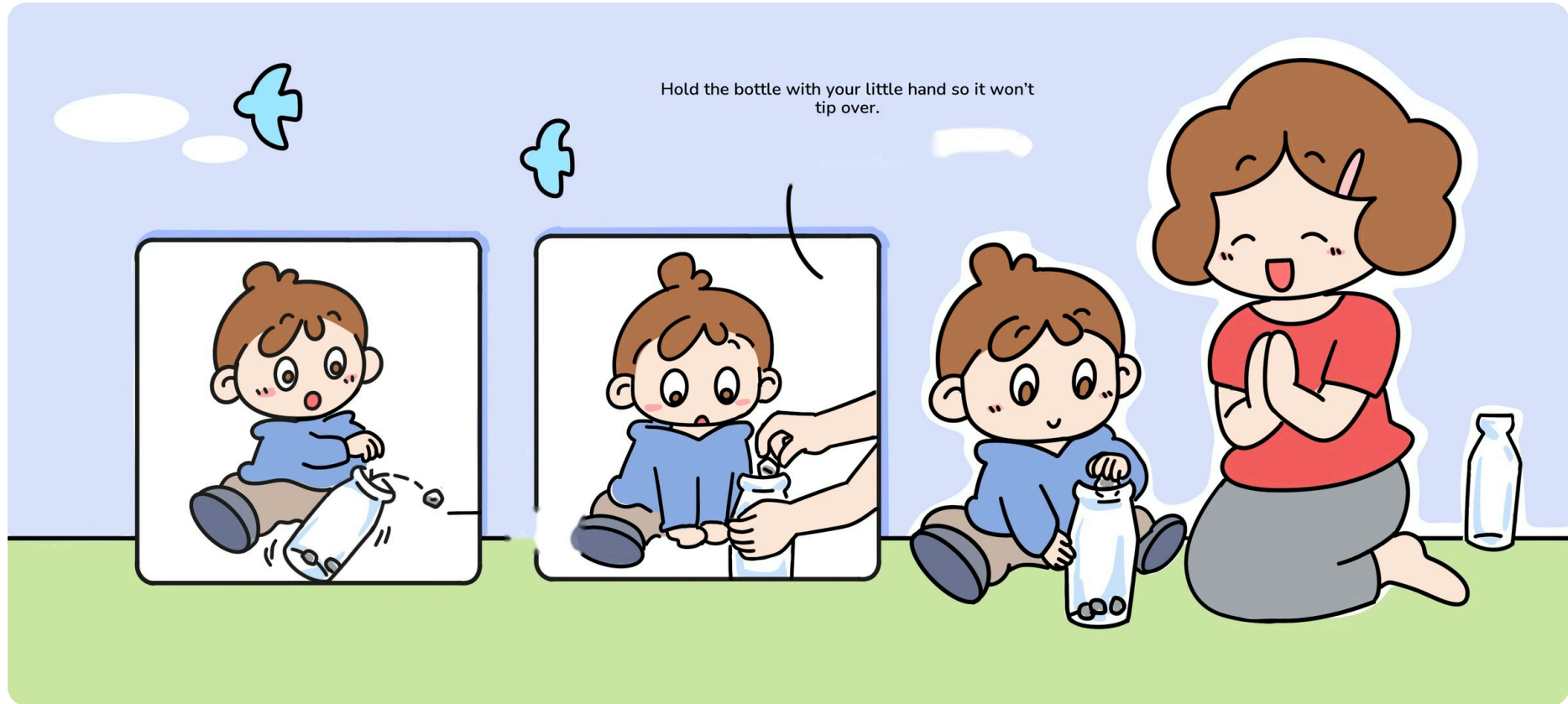
Place one small stone in a wide-mouth bottle and shake it. If the rattling sound interests your baby, set the bottle in front of them and invite them to drop in another stone.

Observations

- Pinches a small pebble between the thumb and index finger
- Moves closer to inspect the container after hearing it rattle

Tips

- If your baby misses the opening, guide their hand as you place the stone together so they can feel the dropping motion.
- Stay beside your baby throughout the activity and watch for attempts to mouth a stone.
- If your baby repeatedly tries to mouth a stone, put the stones away and continue with larger materials that cannot fit in their mouth.



What If the Bottle Tips Over?

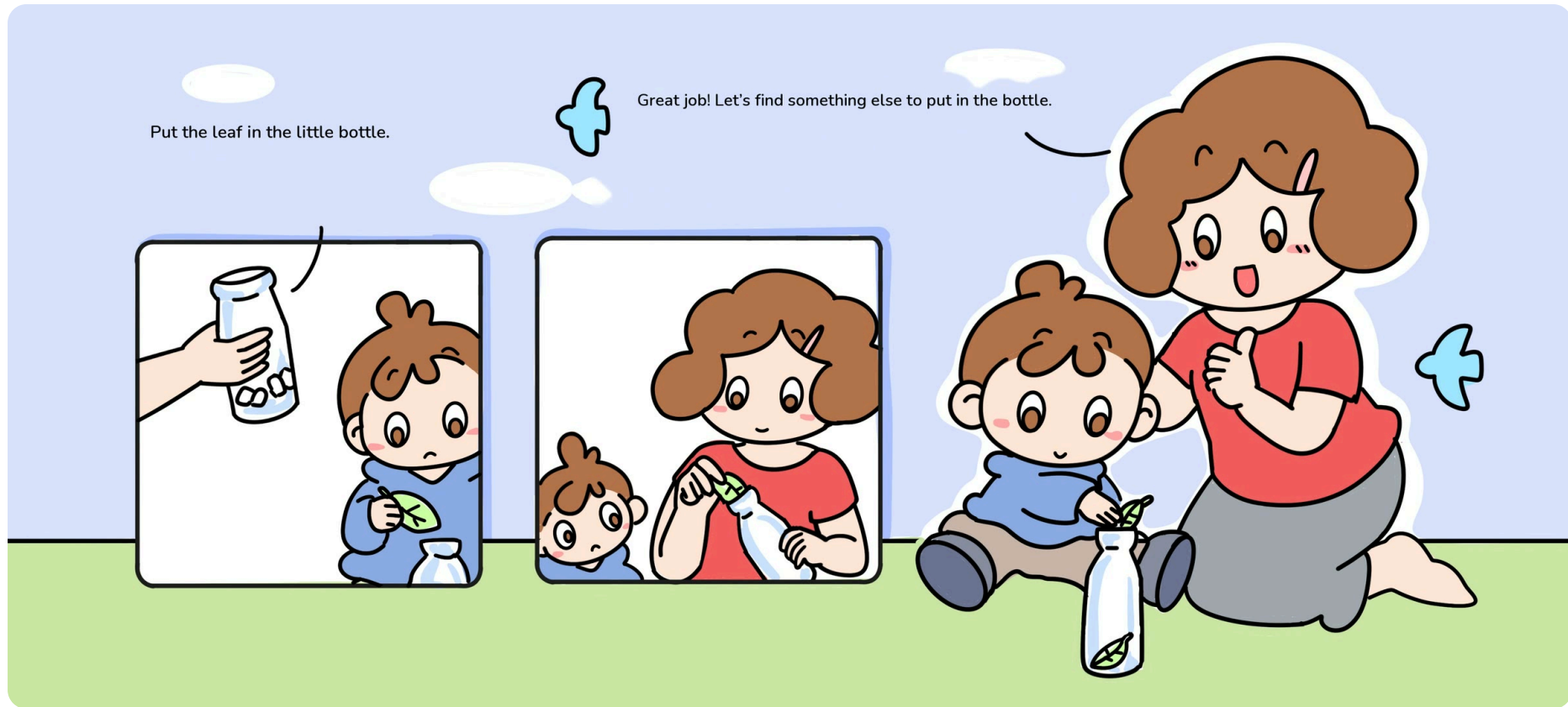
If the bottle tips as your baby aims, hold it steady so they can see the opening and complete the drop. If they want another challenge, let them steady the bottle with one hand and place the stone with the other. Shake the bottle together after a successful drop.

Observations

- Looks at the bottle opening and puts the stone inside
- Copies you steadying the container with one hand

Tips

- If your baby tips the container and empties all the stones, follow that exploration. Once it is empty, begin filling it again.
- Use a clear plastic or other shatter-resistant container rather than glass.



Try a Narrower Opening

Once your baby can place a stone into the wide opening smoothly, offer the narrower container. If they pause with the stone near the opening, wait before demonstrating so they can line it up and release it themselves.

Observations

- Looks at the bottle opening and puts a leaf into the narrow-necked bottle
- Moves closer to examine the new narrow-opening container

Tips

- After a stone goes in, shake the container together and listen to how the rattling sound changes.
- If the stone hits the rim and falls, pick it up and try again.
- Besides stones, look for other natural objects outdoors, such as leaves and twigs.