



Supplies

- ❑ “Guide for Families” handout
- ❑ Clear plastic standup display (optional)
- ❑ A variety of feathers in solid colors (red, blue, yellow, green, purple, orange and others)
- ❑ 3–4 medium baskets
- ❑ Permanent markers that coordinate to the various colors of feathers
- ❑ 12-inch by 6-inch by 1-inch plastic foam (such as Styrofoam) piece (A piece this size will serve 8 participants.)
- ❑ Display table

Activity Preparation

- ▶ Purchase or locate items on supply list.
- ▶ Print one copy of the “Guide for Families” handout. Laminate or place in a clear plastic standup display to allow participants to see it more readily.
- ▶ Put several feathers in a basket, making sure that each color of feather is represented.
- ▶ Using the permanent markers, draw dots in a variety of colors that match the feathers, in no particular order, approximately the size of a dime, all over the piece of plastic foam.
- ▶ Set up the display table with the necessary supplies.





HEADS IN, HEARTS IN



Feather Color Match Guide for Families

Learning Objectives

What you need to know:

Fine motor development and **hand-eye coordination** are important skills for developing early writing. Children develop fine motor skills when they use their fingers to manipulate toys, food or other objects. Young children need lots of opportunities to practice activities that will strengthen the muscles of the hands and require the eyes and hands to work together. This practice will prepare them to complete self-care tasks such as brushing teeth or tying shoes as well as learning how to hold a pencil and write.

What you will do and learn:

In this activity, adults will encourage and support children as they practice their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination by matching the colors of feathers to dots on a piece of plastic foam.

Instructions

1. Take a piece of plastic foam and have the child place it on a flat surface.
2. Select a basket of feathers and encourage children to use their senses to explore the feathers. Ask questions such as “What colors do you see? What is the texture of the feather? (Is it rough, soft, smooth, silky or bumpy?) What does it smell like?”
3. Have the child identify the color of a feather and look for the matching colored dot on the plastic foam.
4. Encourage the child to poke the feather into the matching color dot on the plastic foam.
5. Repeat with the remaining feathers in the basket.
6. Remove each feather and place them back into the basket.