

Weight Bags

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Introductory paragraph: This work is designed to test the tactile discrimination of weight. The materials consist of five pairs of small bags, with each pair weighing the same, while the five pairs have different weights. The bags weigh 20 grams, 60 grams, 100 grams, 140 grams, and 180 grams. The control of error in the work is that each bag has a pair and if two bags are incorrectly matched the last two bags will not match, requiring the work to be revisited. The bags have metal rings at the top of silver and gold allowing the child to hook a finger into the ring as a method of weighing them. The work is complete and original, providing a much-needed supplement to the general dearth of Montessori materials testing discrimination of weight. This material is best presented to children over four, after most of the sensorial materials have already been presented and mastered. It should reside on the shelf with the Baric Tablets.

Area: Sensorial

Materials: five pairs of bags weighing 20, 60, 100, 140, and 180 grams, with small metal rings of silver and gold attached to the tops.

Aims:

Direct:

Development of the tactile discrimination of weight.

Indirect:

Previous learning: Carrying a tray, matching, sequencing

Presentation:

- 1) Invite child
- 2) Obtain the tray
- 3) Place on a mat
- 4) Remove the heaviest and lightest bags from one of the pairs. Slip a finger of each hand through the rings of the bags and weigh them. Then hand them to the child so they can feel the difference.
- 5) Return the two bags to their set. Then remove two bags and weigh them between your hands to determine the heaviest. Set the heaviest in the center of the mat and set the lighter one aside. Compare another bag with the heaviest and identify the heaviest in that pair. Continue until the heaviest bag is identified and set that bag in the upper right corner of the rug.
- 6) Continue this process with the four remaining bags until you have sequenced the bags from heavy to light along the right side of the rug.
- 7) Remove a bag from the opposite set and hold it by the ring with your right ring finger.
- 8) Starting with the heaviest bag on the rug, compare it with each bag seeking its match.
- 9) Continue that process with all five bags.

10) Once all the pairs are matched return them to the tray and place back on shelf.

11) In a future lesson do a three-period lesson on “heavy” and “light.”

Points of Interest: different weighted bags, shiny rings

Control of Error: All degrees of weight have a match

Variations:

- 1) For younger children use only three weights (20, 100, 180 grams)
- 2) Do the exercise blindfolded.

Extensions:

Language: heavy and light.

Age: 4 - 6