

# Learn to button

Children typically begin a fascination with buttons around 2 years of age and are able to button and unbutton large buttons between 3-4 years. The task of buttoning requires the ability to use both hands, isolate fingers for function, cognitive readiness and interest.

- Dressing toys on the market



Dressing boards



Dressing dolls



Dressing cubes



- Dress-up with oversized clothes having large buttons and loose button hole
- Develop hand mechanics for manipulation

**BUTTON FLAPPER:** You need:

- Flimsy lid (cool whip tub)
  - Poker chips
  - Cut smaller slit than size of poker chip
- One hand pushes disc, while other hand pulls disc



**BUTTON BAGGIE:** You need:

- old polo style shirt button placket or piece of felt
  - large buttons
  - sewing machine
  - Sew around edges to create pouch
- Place materials inside "baggie" and have child unbutton to obtain materials



**BUTTON CHAIN:** You need:

- Grograin ribbon
  - Button
  - Fabric
  - Sewing machine
- Cut fabric squares. Sew button hole. Sew button at each end of ribbon.



- Language - use simple concise words



Squeeze button



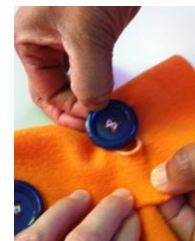
put thumb in hole



put button in hole



push button through hole



pull button out hole

Language for visually impaired child to provide location:

Squeeze button with one hand ☺other hand - thumb in hole keeps place ☺using thumb push button through hole ☺other hand pulls button

Evidence Based Research:

Cook, RE, MD Klein & A Tesscer (2008). Adapting Early childhood Curricula for children with special Needs (7<sup>th</sup> Ed). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.

Inomata, M & K Simizu (1991). Ability of young children to button and unbutton clothes. Journal Hum Ergol (Tokyo). Dec; 20 (2): 249-55. Pubmed ID: 1842972

