



Ways to increase knowledge and skills in using everyday materials...

Practice thinking "out of the box"

Identify an outcome frequently included on IFSPs and write a list of the materials you typically use on the left hand side of the page. Across from each item write down something else that would work also.

For Example:

Turn taking with actions

<u>Grasp and release object</u>	<u>Functional use of objects</u>
Rolling a ball back and forth	Roll cans of soup
Pushing cars	Push boxes
Dropping blocks in bucket	Put trash in waste basket
Stacking blocks	Laundry in Hamper
	Put videos or books on shelf
	Stack groceries

Complete an environmental assessment on your own routines and everyday materials

Walk through your home and stop in each room. Look around for the everyday materials you see there. Identify the routines and activities that you (and your family) complete while in that room and materials you use. Think about the skills you need and how the materials are used. Begin thinking about functionality from a personal perspective.

Relax in your favorite chair, Jacuzzi, or hammock. Do a visual replay of common objects and routines you've identified on your inventory. Match the commonalities from your home and life to the families you see. Imagine other possibilities as you complete your daily chores.

"Shop" for substitutes

While gathering your weekly groceries...identify outcomes you could target in the grocery store. Think about adaptations for specific children on your caseload.

Give yourself a few extra minutes at WalMart (or your local discount store version) to "shop" for ideas.

Go to a kitchen store and look for materials that are likely to be in homes but aren't visible during your home visit. How can they be used in intervention?

Survey the family environment for special interests or activities

Common objects are good but uncommon materials can be even more fun! Look and listen for families' preferences when you're visiting them. If music is always playing, try to incorporate it in a dance or singing routine. If the family talks about working in the yard, identify ways the child can be involved.

Feeding the family pets, putting leaves or pinecones in the garbage, or talking on a disconnected phone all present teaching and learning opportunities with everyday materials.

