Where Is the Button?

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Language and Literacy, Cognitive

What You Need:

- Three paper cups
- One small object such as a button
- Marker or pen

What To Do:

1. Before beginning the activity, talk about words that describe placement of things such as “over,” “under,” “next to,” “behind,” “in front of,” “left,” and “right.”

2. Ask your child to use these words when describing things she wants to use or play with. Provide examples such as “Let’s get the wooden blocks. They are on the shelf behind the sofa. See how I can stack one on top of the other. I put the biggest blocks under the small ones so they don’t topple over. We can put your little action figures next to the block structure we built and pretend that they live there.”

3. Number each cup 1, 2, or 3 with a marker or pen.

4. Line up the cups in numerical order.

5. Ask your child to close her eyes while you hide the button under one cup. Have her guess which cup the button is under.

6. If she guesses wrong on the first try, help her out with a clue: “I put the button under the cup that is next to cup number two.” Let her have a turn to hide the button while you guess where it is. If your
child has difficulty providing you with clues, you can ask the questions.

Safety Alert: Remind your child not to put small objects in her mouth. They can get stuck in her throat and cause choking (and even death). When you are done using small objects, put them away, where your child cannot reach them. Childproofing your home creates a safe place for your child to explore and learn.