



2 and a half +  
FINE MOTORIC



## Opening and Closing Snaps

### MATERIALS

A clean item of child-sized clothing (eg. a jacket or sweater) that fastens with snaps, which is kept neatly folded in a small basket or container, or on a small tray.

### PRESENTATION

Invite the child to the shelf where the activity is stored. Demonstrate how the container/tray is held and allow the child to carry the materials to the workspace. Sit on the right side of the child and ask the child to place their hands on their lap while they watch what you are going to do. Slowly and carefully, remove the item of clothing from the container and spread it out flat on the work surface with the bottom of the garment being farthest away from you and the neck being closest.

To open: Beginning at the end that is farthest away from you, hold the area around the bottom snap fastening steady with one hand while you carefully pull it open with the other hand. Move your hands towards the next snap fastening and, keeping your movements slow and deliberate, open the next snap fastening in the exact same way. Repeat until the garment has been completely opened. Then slowly open out both sides of the garment completely so that the child can see how it looks when the process has been completed.

To snap closed: First, fold the flap containing the bottom part of the snaps back in towards the center and ensure that it is laying flat on the work surface. Gently fold in the flap containing the top part of the snaps; it may lie either overlapping the snaps or edge to edge. Beginning at the end that is farthest away from you, hold the underside of the first snap fastener steady with one hand and guide the corresponding snap fastener from the top flap until it aligns with it. Gently press down on the snap until it “clicks” closed; you can draw attention to this noise by keeping silent but using your facial expression to suggest that you are listening carefully. Move your hands towards the next snap fastener and, keeping your movements slow and deliberate, close the next snap fastener in the exact same way. Repeat until the garment has been completely closed. Then invite the child to take a turn.

### DIRECT AIM

- Fine motor control.
- Development of coordination
- Development of independence.



## INDIRECT AIM

Self-care and self-confidence.

## CONTROL OF ERROR

If the two sides of the garment do not line up symmetrically when the process is complete i.e. if there is one half of the snap fastener “left over”.

## POINT OF INTEREST

Snap mechanism, noise produced by the fastener when it closes

## AGE

From two and a half years.