

# Light Box Exploration

In this open ended activity, children are invited to play with light and color as they place a variety of materials onto a light box. Objects such as feathers and ribbon have a new look when the light shines through, while layering items will transform colors. Take a look in the mirror and the activity becomes an early exploration of symmetry.

## ***In The Wonder Cabinet:***

Today, *The Wonder Cabinet* is providing a sensory activity which engages the sense of sight. As children lay objects on a light box, the light shines through the object, accentuating the colors, lines, and shapes of each item. Objects can also be layered to explore mixing colors.

The mirrors next to the light box take the activity one step further by introducing symmetry. Children can explore how objects are mirror images of each other, an important step in learning math concepts such as fractions. Nature has many beautiful examples of symmetry, which is why we are hatching butterflies in the Wonder Cabinet. As you look closely at the butterflies, notice the symmetrical patterns on their wings.

## **At Home:**

Any light source can be transformed into a means of exploring light at home- from table lamps to sunlight shining through a window. Tape colored cellophane pieces to a sunny window or sliding glass door to explore color mixing. Create designs on wax paper with crayons or other colored materials, and then hold it up to a table lamp to see how it changes.

Flashlights are another great way to explore light. Cover the light with colored cellophane or fabrics to change the color of the light. Hold objects between the flashlight and the wall to make shadows. Use mirrors to reflect the light onto the walls or floor. See how many times you can “bounce” the reflected light from place to place.

## **Suggested Light Exploration Materials:**

- Fabric scraps, yarn, string
- Natural items like leaves, flowers
- Cellophane, tissue paper
- Transparent colored blocks
- Mirrors