

## Ideas and Inspiration for the TTS Glow Jewels (EL46812, EL446810, EL46809, EL46811)

### TTS Glow Jewels – Supporting Learning in the Early Years and Beyond

In this download, you will find a collection of fun, simple and engaging ideas to use in your setting.

The Glow Jewels come in three shapes – pyramids, squares and rectangles. A simple but captivating collection of pulsing light, jewel shapes that invite children to pause, notice and explore. The gentle rhythm of the light naturally captures attention and supports calm, open-ended play across the early years.

Unlike fixed-colour glow resources, the slow pulsing light encourages children to spend time watching, waiting and wondering. Used as large loose parts, the jewels can be explored in different ways, either indoors or within sensory spaces.



## Sensory Exploration and Curiosity

For babies and young children, the glowing jewels offer a strong visual invitation. Why not try some of the following ideas:

- Place the jewels on the floor and allow children time to notice the pulsing light.
- Some may simply watch, tracking the glow with their eyes as it captures their attention, while others will try to reach out to touch or grasp the shapes.
- Add the jewels to a treasure basket, light panel or tuff tray alongside sheer voiles, mirrors, metallic resources/surfaces, or translucent materials to explore how light reflects and changes. What happens when a jewel is placed next to a shiny surface? How does the light look through the fabric?

These moments give a sense of awe and wonder, support early curiosity, discovery and encourage children to explore using their senses.



## Movement and Physical Development

Movement and physical development are crucial in the early years. Here are a few ideas for how the Glow Jewels can be used to support these areas of learning.

- Position the jewels just out of reach to encourage stretching, reaching and crawling. The pulsing glow effects will motivate some children to move towards the light, developing strength, balance and coordination.
- Older children may enjoy carrying the jewels from one place to another, lifting and carefully placing them as they play. Observe crouching, stretching and careful control as children move the shapes around the space.
- Some children may choose to use the different glow jewels to add a light element to an obstacle course. Can they navigate their way around the pulsing lights by moving in different ways? Each type of jewel could indicate a different action e.g. a purple pyramid could mean 5-star jumps, a red square can be counting to 10 in time with the pulses etc.



## Hiding, Revealing and Enclosing

Many children and babies love to play games that involve hiding, revealing and enclosing objects. Here are few ideas to try with the Glow Jewels:

- Cover the jewels with voiles or sheer fabrics so that the glow can still be seen underneath. Children may enjoy a game of peek-a-boo - pulling the fabric away to reveal the light, placing it back again to hide them, or simply observing to see how the glow changes when it is partially hidden.
- Hide the jewels around the environment for children to find. Can they spot the soft glow peeking out? Where might it be hiding next?

This type of play links closely to children's schematic interests, particularly enclosing and covering.

These simple activities can also be linked to developing a child's attention and concentration.



## Construction and Schematic Play

The TTS Glow Jewels are an ideal resource for construction and schematic play.

- As children become more confident, the jewels can be used as large loose parts for building and arranging. With the different shapes and colours, what can they create? Will it be an alien craft from deep space or a magical ancient pyramid?
- Children may stack, balance or line them up, working out how the different shapes can fit together.
- You may notice repeated schematic behaviours such as children lining up, rotating, enclosing or combing shapes to experiment with different orientations.
- Allow children time to explore these ideas without interruption. Stand back and observe to see which direction their play takes. What creations will they construct?



## Mathematical Thinking

Mathematical concepts arise naturally as children play with the pulsing shapes.

- Encourage children to sort the jewels by shape or colour. Can they find objects from the environment that fit into the different categories e.g. objects shaped like a pyramid or objects that are red.
- Can the children create simple patterns for a friend to copy? These could include repeated patterns or more random designs.
- Children may begin to notice and name the different 3D shapes and talk about what is the same or different. They may also start to recognise and identify the different 2D shapes that make up the surface of the jewels.
- The steady pulsing light can be used to support counting, helping children keep a consistent rhythm as they count, for example, in a game of 'Hide and Seek' or to teach one to one correspondence.



## Imaginative Play and Storytelling

Glow Jewels are loose parts with no single prescribed use so can transform into whatever the imagination desires.

- The Glow Jewels lend themselves well to imaginative play. They may represent a hoard of dragon's treasure, magical stones or special objects within a story.
- Combined with small world resources or story prompts, the Glow Jewels can help bring narratives to life and lead to interesting storylines and discussions.
- What might the jewels become today? Where have they come from? Who do they belong to? Do they have any special powers?
- Why not add them to the reading area? Not only can they be used in the acting out or retelling of stories but can also provide a calm environment in which to share books.



## Calm Spaces and Regulation

- Use as part of a sensory area or in a white den. The jewels create a soft, calm environment as the pulsing light reflects onto the walls and fabrics. Invite children to sit or lie nearby and watch the mesmerising, pulsing glow.
- Some children may naturally begin to slow their breathing in time with the light, using the steady rhythm to help calm and regulate. The pulsing light from the Glow Jewels can be used alongside breathing boards and mindfulness exercises.



Please note: The jewels emit a gentle pulsing light which may not be suitable for children who are sensitive to flashing or changing lights.