



RoboFesta-MK

"Manipulating the World" Activity



If you find yourself with a few minutes to spare during the day, why not have a go at being a robot arm on a turntable?

How easy is it to pick up a ball or a coin from the floor and pop it in a nearby bucket? Remember, if you are on a turntable all you can do is turn on the spot.

Try again just using your thumb and forefinger to pick up the ball or coin, as if you were a robot arm with a simple gripper.

And now try a third time just using your first and second fingers.

How easy is it to pick up the ball? And the coin?

How easy would it be if you were wearing thick gloves? Do you think you could do it blindfolded?

Do you think your robot arm could take the lid off a bottle of squash? (How would you hold the bottle still? How would you know how tight to grip the lid?)