



HOW DOES IT FEEL BOX

Materials you need:

- A cardboard box with a few holes large enough for toddlers to reach their arm through.
- Selection of familiar objects with different textures – bubble wrap, smooth wooden blocks, squishy beanbags, soft cotton balls, spiky sensory balls, silky scarves etc. Use what you have available but make sure they also fit through the holes you made in the box.

Setup for play:

- Show the children the objects and let them investigate, touch and explore before putting them into the box.
- As they put their arms through the hole in the box ask what they can feel. Use descriptive words and encourage them to pull the object out of the box.
- Name the object as you look at it together as repetition will help baby and toddler understand and eventually use the word too.

What are they learning with this activity?

As they explore the different textures inside the box the children are learning to:

- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and explore spatial awareness.
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control.
- Understand the concept of object permeance
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing.
- Express emotions and use gestures.
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills.
- Use their senses to explore and investigate.

Extending the play:

- Collect items with a range of different textures and glue onto a sheet of cardboard. Place baby's hand on top of the textured item and tell him what he is touching using words like smooth, bumpy, slippery, soft, hard.
- Use different textured materials, mats and cardboard to create a sensory path for baby to crawl over and toddler to walk over.
- Turn the cardboard boxes over for even more fun!

