



## NUMBER SENSORY TUB

### Materials you need:

- A deep bowl, tub or tray
- Dry sensory material like sawdust, rice, sand, shredded paper, Epsom salts or similar.
- Plastic or magnetic coloured numbers
- Tongs and large scoops or spoons

### Setup for play:

- Fill the sensory tub with your chosen material and bury the numbers in the tub.
- Encourage children to find the numbers and use the tongs or a spoon to get them out of the tub.
- Line them up so they know what numbers they still need to find.
- What number did you find? What number is missing? What colour are the numbers?

## What are they learning with this activity?

As the children search for the numbers they are learning to:

- Classify, sort by category and group items together by similarities, patterns and differences
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Work independently on a project
- Listen to and follow directions
- Work together in a group with others
- Basic counting and number recognition concepts

## Extending the play:

- Use letters or shapes in the sensory bin instead of numbers.
- Create a number scavenger hunt. Hide duplicate numbers or letters around the indoor or outdoor environment, children choose a number then go in search of a match.