



TOUCHY TEXTURES

Materials you need:

- Small shoeboxes or similar boxes with lids.
- PVA glue watered down a little
- Material scraps of different textures and a sandpaper sheet.

Setup for play:

- Punch two holes in the lid of the shoebox – big enough for a finger to poke through.
- Take the lid off the boxes and spread glue around inside. Arrange the pieces of fabric and press firmly. Put the sheet of sandpaper cut to size into another shoebox. Leave boxes to dry.
- Show baby and toddler how to poke their finger through a hole and touch the inside of the box.
- Talk about how the materials feel. Are they rough, soft, bumpy, scratchy, smooth. Do they like the touch or do they pull away? Use lots of descriptive words as you play together.

What are they learning with this activity?

As baby touches the different textures they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and explore spatial awareness.
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control.
- Listen to and follow directions.
- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing.
- Use language and sound to communicate their thinking.
- Express emotions and use gestures.
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills.
- Use their senses to explore and investigate.

Extending the play:

- Collect some small scarves from the op shop and tie together. Poke the tip of one scarf through the hole in one lid and show baby how to pull out the scarves.
- Use the shoeboxes as blocks to stack with and knock down.
- Turn the shoeboxes into mini small worlds for toddlers to cart around and arrange as they wish.

