



TOUCH IT BAGS

Materials you need:

- 5 brown paper bags (or similar)
- 5 everyday items that have a distinct sensory property that are safe for baby and toddler to touch.
- Suggestions for materials – kitchen sponges, dry leaves, spiky ball, banana, cotton balls, metal spoon, twig, hairbrush.

Setup for play:

- Fill each bag with one of the sensory items and fold over the tops so they appear closed.
- Sit down with the older babies and toddlers and open one of the bags – take turns putting hands inside to feel the mystery item in the bag. You may need to model using your own hand to build confidence first.
- Ask what they can feel, if they can guess what it is.
- If no one can guess what it is, put your own hand back in and use descriptive words to give clues.
- Allow them to pull out and reveal the item!
- When everyone has had a turn, close all of the bags up again and leave on the floor for children to open and explore on their own. Add some empty bags and encourage them to fill with their own touchy toy.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children touch the sensory items and try to guess the object they are learning to:

- Use play to investigate and explore new ideas
- Use descriptive language
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Use their senses to explore and learn more about an object
- Listen to and follow directions
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Explore simple investigative and problem-solving concepts through play and experimentation

Extending the play:

- Do some painting on the bags.
- Draw faces on the bags when the game is finished, stick to some craft sticks and turn into puppets to use when singing songs or reading stories.
- Go on a walk around the yard outside and encourage toddlers to put nature items of interest into their brown bag to take home.

