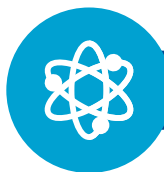




SENSORY LEARNING IN EVERY DAY PLAY

Young children spend much of their time exploring the world with their senses: sight, sound, smell, taste and touch, and balance and movement. Sensory play is an important part of brain development; it stimulates brain connections and builds the foundation for more complex learning skills.

Here are a some easy ways to incorporate sensory learning into every day play.



EARLY MATH & SCIENCE SKILLS

Children develop problem solving, classification and cause and effect skills as they mix, measure and sort.

In the sand table give the children measuring cups, plastic bottles and funnels to fill the bottles with sand. As the funnels get stuck or over fill ask why they think this is happening and encourage them to problem solve!



LANGUAGE SKILLS

Talk as you play! Describe what you are feeling and seeing. Is it rough, sticky, sharp, smooth, damp?

Do a backyard scavenger hunt - find sticks, leaves, rocks and more! Then come together to describe the textures and talk about the experience.



FINE MOTOR SKILLS

When children sort, pinch, pull and squeeze they are developing fine motor skills.

As kids play with playdough work along side them to make playdough pizza. As they create their pizza, they will squeeze and roll the dough and pinch pieces for the toppings.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Kids work together to create and problem solve. This helps them learn from each other!

When children create beside each other, point out different features you notice in their creations to help them develop awareness of new ideas. Encourage them to team up and collaborate!