



Presents ...

The Resource Exchange

News from the ECCDC Lending Library

ISSUE 18 • 2023

Sensory play has been proven to be beneficial for children of all ages. This type of play encourages the development of motor skills, problem-solving and language. Sensory exploration also encourages mindfulness and has calming benefits.



Provocation for Learning Kits Available for Borrowing



Preschoolers Explore Mixing & Pouring through Making "Lemonade"

This kit offers a unique combination of sensory and imaginative play. Children can create a lemonade stand or add these items to water play to enhance their experience.



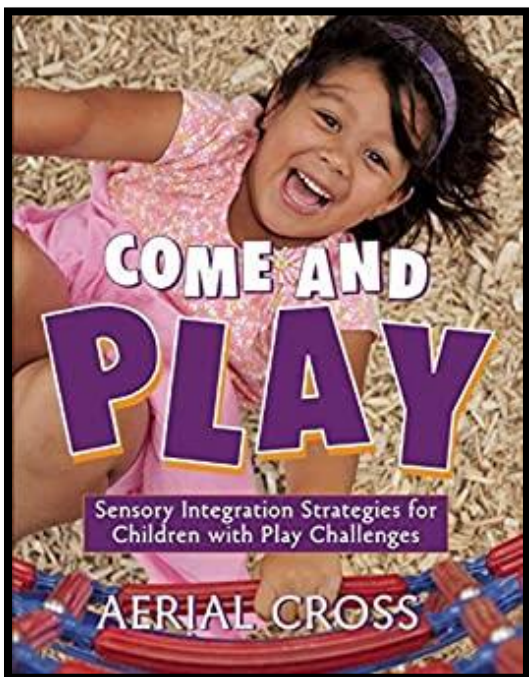
Exploring Berries & Fruit through Sensory Play

This kit is not only great for sensory play, but also offers opportunities for lots of numeracy experiences. What better way to explore the summer harvest than with this delicious looking bin?

Check out the Sensory Resources available on our E-store: [click here](#)

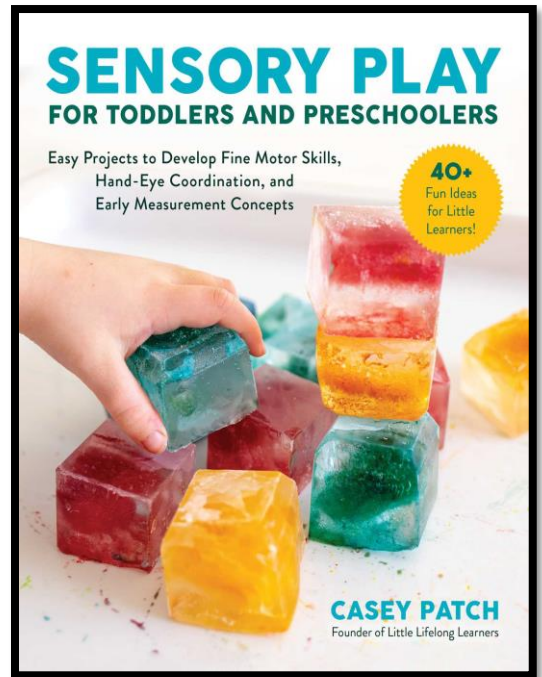


Literature Resources for Early Learning Educators for Borrowing



Sensory - Integration Strategies for Children with Play Challenges Ariel Cross

This book introduces educators to sensory play as a form of early intervention for children with play challenges. Join Ariel Cross as she explores the benefits of productive sensory play.



Sensory Play for Toddlers and Preschoolers Casey Patch

Join Casey Patch to explore 40 engaging activities that introduce sensory play to early and emergent learners.





Presents ...

The Resource Exchange

News from the ECCDC Lending Library



Sarah's Scope

Sarah McTavish, ECCDC Summer Intern (2022)

Ten DIY Sensory Bins for Under Ten Dollars

Check out these ideas for sensory bins that you can make for individual or group collaborative play, using a combination of common household/classroom items with some affordable additions from your local craft supply store!

1. Colour Contrast

Infants can explore colour contrast with this black and white sensory bin which encourages children to touch and feel the items of varying sizes, weights, and textures. You can also encourage scooping and fine motor development by providing items such as spoons and ladles.

Base: Black and White Fabric Flower Petals

Contents:

- Black and white pom poms
- Wiffle balls
- Black and white balloon weights
- Black and white marbles
- Small sorting bowls
- Kitchen ladle

2. Under the Sea

Children can explore a variety of sensory experiences while also investigating the characteristics of sea life with this ocean-themed sensory bin.

Base: Blue and Clear Water Beads

Contents:

- Ocean animal figures
- Rocks
- Seashells



3. Hot Cocoa

This hot cocoa themed sensory bin allows children to explore many different senses, including smell! This activity also encourages imaginative play as children investigate what it would be like to work at a café in the wintertime.

Base: Brown Beads, Mud or Sand

Contents:

- Spoons
- Cinnamon sticks
- Cotton balls
- Reusable coffee tumblers
- Red and white pipe cleaners twisted into "peppermint sticks"
- Coffee mugs

4. Five Little Speckled Frogs

Create this sensory bin as a fun addition to a literacy study on the popular book and nursery rhyme *Five Little Speckled Frogs!* This bin allows children to explore the characteristics and habitats of frogs, while also engaging in sensory exploration and water play.

Base: Water

Contents:

- 5 rubber frogs
- Green foam lily pads
- Small white pom poms
- Sticks
- Stones
- Fabric flower petals
- Sponges
- Scoops and spoons





Presents ...

The Resource Exchange

News from the ECCDC Lending Library

5. Pom Pom Water Play

This sensory bin encourages children to investigate the properties of water and concepts of sinking and floating. Children can also be encouraged to identify and sort the pom poms based on colour and size. This is a great addition to an existing water table!

Base: Water

Contents:

- Pom poms of assorted colours and sizes
- Tweezers
- Ice cube tray
- Plastic Cups



6. Wild Weather

Encourage children to investigate the elements of weather with this wild weather themed sensory activity. This bin could also be adapted to be added to a water table!

Base: Black glass gems

Contents:

- Cotton balls
- Yellow pipe cleaners (bent into lightning bolt shapes)
- Clear and blue glass beads
- Scoops
- Sorting bowls

7. Construction Zone

Provide children the opportunity to explore scooping and dumping through this construction themed sensory bin. This bin can be moved outside and adapted to fit in a sand box!

Base: Sand or Gravel

Contents:

- Assorted construction vehicle toys
- Shovels
- Rocks
- Tree blocks/ logs

8. Ice Cream Treats

This summer-friendly sensory bin encourages soft sensory play while also allowing children to explore stacking and scooping.

Base: Rainbow Shredded Paper

Contents:

- Large coloured pom poms
- Ice cream scoop
- Paper cones, or plastic sundae bowls
- Spoons
- Cotton balls



9. Spell a Star

Encourage letter recognition and sensory exploration with this glow-in-the-dark sensory play experience!

Base: Black Glass Beads

Contents:

- Glow in the dark star wall decals (with one letter written on each)
- Tweezers
- Sorting tray

10. Honeycomb Beehive

Children can explore the characteristics and habitats of the honeybee, while also engaging in a sensory experience. Try adding a scented element by adding a few drops of floral-scented essential oils.

Base: Shredded Yellow Paper

Contents:

- Black and yellow pom poms
- Honey dripper
- Bumblebee figures
- Magnifying glass
- Fabric flower petals
- White ice cube tray





Presents ...

The Resource Exchange

News from the ECCDC Lending Library



Connor's Corner

Connor Walsh, ECCDC Summer Intern

Sensory Experiences in Active & Gross Motor Play

Sensory play can be incorporated in active, outdoor, and gross motor play, as well as fine motor sensory bin activities! There are many methods of enhancing the sensory system through gross motor play, including:

1. Spinning & Rolling

Sensory seeking children often seek out opportunities for sensory input through spinning and rolling, as these activities give their bodies feedback through a variety of senses. Spinning and rolling can be introduced through a variety of cooperative play activities, free outdoor play, and creative arts activities.

2. Dance and Music

Dance and music activities allow children to explore music with their bodies through a variety of movements and levels. Gross motor sensory experiences, like dancing, allow for better organization and filtration of information. This encourages a quicker and more accurate response to stimuli.

