



ALL ABOUT APPLES

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<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/>



What is Sensory Play and Why is it Important?

Sensory play for toddlers and preschoolers involves activities that let them explore different textures, smells, tastes, and sights. When children participate in activities like squishing playdough, smelling scented material, or feeling different textures they are developing building block cognitive skills, and learning about the world around them. Sensory play also encourages language development as children learn new words to describe their experiences.

Recipe For Apple Playdough!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- red food coloring
- 1 cup flour
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1/3 cup salt
- 1 tsp apple pie spice
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil



Instructions:

1. In a measuring cup, add red food coloring to water and stir to combine. Set aside.
2. In a separate large bowl, pour in flour, cream of tartar, apple spice, and salt and then stir to combine.
3. In a saucepan, pour in the dry ingredients, followed by the oil, and then the coloured water. Stir really well to make sure all the ingredients are mixed together. Keep stirring until most of the lumps are gone.
4. Turn the stove element on low to medium heat and stir without stopping. As you stir you will notice the dough getting thicker and lumpy again. Keep stirring until the dough starts to stick to whatever you are stirring with. Once it sticks together like one big blob, you know it's done.
5. Remove the play dough from the pan and turn onto a flat surface lined with wax or parchment paper to cool.
6. Once the play dough is cooled and comfortable to the touch, knead the play dough for a couple of minutes to work out any of the remaining lumps.

Apple Taste Test Extension Activity!!

Materials:

- Different types of apples
- Bowls of water for rinsing
- Child friendly cutting tools (optional)

Instructions:

1. Allow the children to help rinse the apples.
2. Show the children the different coloured apples. ask: "What colour do you think the _____ apple is on the inside? repeat for each colour.
3. Cut the apples into small pieces. Allow them to see that the apples are all the same on the inside, even though the skin on the outside is a different colour.
4. Let the children taste and smell each apple slice. Ask how it tastes – sweet, sour, etc.
5. Ask which apple they like best and why.
6. Praise and encourage them for tasting and trying new things.

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FALLING FOR FALL



What is an Activity Provocation?

A provocation for children is an intentional activity setup or prompt designed to spark curiosity, exploration, and learning. A well designed provocation will stimulate a child's natural interest which will allow for deeper more meaningful learning.



How to Set up a Provocation at Home

This can be done by providing interesting materials, questions, or activities that will encourage kids to think, discover, and create.

Above is an example of an art provocation. The children were provided with a variety of materials with the purpose of recreating a sunflower. Children were encouraged to use whatever materials they liked to design their sunflower. By doing this the children are using their own creativity and critical thinking skills. We then displayed the art, where no two pieces are the same!

How To Use Loose Parts In a Provocation

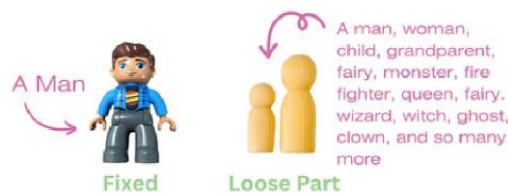
Loose parts are open ended materials like shells, blocks, fabric, beads, sticks, or stones that children can play with any way they choose. You can use loose parts to build, create art, or invent games. The key is to allow for unstructured play and exploration of the materials, allowing the children to explore their ideas without specific instructions. You can incorporate loose parts into a provocation as seen in the picture to the left.



The silhouette of an ant was placed out with loose parts that would inspire children to create their own representation of an ant.



Play Potential Fixed Materials Vs Loose Parts



Loose parts offer endless possibilities for open-ended play, encouraging children's creativity and imagination.

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TRICK OR TREAT TINY FEET

Pumpkin Science!

Pumpkin Jack is a fun storybook by Will Hubell about a pumpkin's life cycle. This activity teaches children about pumpkins, science, and nature.

Materials:

1. "Pumpkin Jack" book
2. Pumpkin
3. Large container



www.kellysclassroomonline.com

1. Read "Pumpkin Jack" to the preschoolers, discussing Jack's stages.
2. Let the children decorate the pumpkin with markers or stickers.
3. Set up an area to watch the pumpkin decompose (a jar with lid, or an old fish tank).
4. Over the next few weeks talk to the children about Jack's changes. Point out the changes you observe.



MERAKIMOTHER.COM

Textured Halloween Playdough

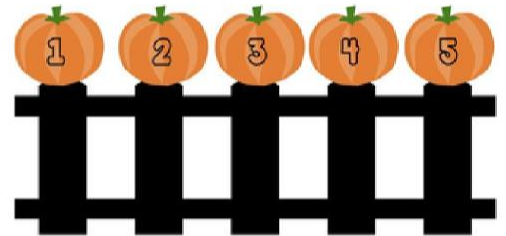
Playdough is a simple and engaging way to help children develop multiple skills. When children participate in activities like squishing playdough, smelling scented material, or feeling different textures they are developing building block cognitive skills, and learning about the world around them. A great option to add variety to your playdough recipe, is adding in rice, beans, or googly eyes for a Halloween feel.



Halloween Sensory Bags

Creating Halloween sensory bags for toddlers is a fantastic way to provide young children with a sensory experience. Some ideas to add to your Halloween sensory bags: In large zip lock bags you can add clear hair gel, food colouring and little plastic toys, glitter or googly eyes. Another option would be putting the inside of a pumpkin in a bag, or cooked dyed spaghetti.

FIVE LITTLE PUMPKINS



Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate
The first one said, "oh my, it's getting late"
The second one said "There are bats in the air"
The third one said "but we don't care"
The fourth one said "Let's run, run, run"
The fifth one said "I'm ready for some fun"
"Oo-oo" went the wind and out went the light
And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight.

WWW.SPRINKLEDWITHPAPER.NET

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GINGERBREAD BABY




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A warm and cozy morning...

Come join us for this sweet gingerbread themed extravaganza. Run, run as fast as you can, you won't want to miss this magical event for children to get hands-on in this wonderful gingerbread world. They will use their senses to explore all of the activity areas and to create wonderful memories.

More ways to help children explore the magical world of the Gingerbread Baby.

1. Bake Gingerbread Cookies: Baking offers many opportunities for children to work on their motor skills. Baking gingerbread cookies along with reading the sorry "The Gingerbread Man" is a great activity to do together and help them make the connection between literacy and real life memories.

2. Gingerbread Table Top: Integrate math and literacy into your morning. Gingerbread shape identification and number match games are a fun way to add some STEM learning into this theme. Some great activities can be found here : [HERE](#)

3. Gingerbread Stamping: Use gingerbread cookie cutters and brown paint to stamp the shapes onto paper. Gingerbread cookie cutter art is an engaging process art project that is low prep and a ton of fun. Plus, it is great for strengthening those fine motor muscles!

4. Body Tracing: Turn your little ones into a life size gingerbread cookie! Use a large roll of brown paper, allow children to lie down on it to trace their bodies. This now becomes their very own template to turn themselves into a Gingerbread person.

5. Gingerbread Slime: Gingerbread slime is not only fun to play with, but it smells amazing too! This easy gingerbread slime is perfect for strengthening and engaging little hands for some sensory play. Recipe can be found [HERE](#).

6. Transfer Your Dramatic Play Area Into A Bakery: Change your dramatic play centre into a bakery and embed a ton of learning into their play. Add props that can be used for baking, pots and pans, spatulas, aprons, cookie shapes, baking rollers, and more.

Gingerbread Circle Time

Jan Brett's story the "Gingerbread Baby" is a favourite, perfect to gather together and read. The illustrations are simply amazing.



<https://theclassroomcreative.com>





HAPPY
Holidays

Playing with light

Light is a common theme among holidays celebrated around the world! Engaging children in light play can involve activities like using glowsticks, exploring with coloured LED lights, or creating shadow puppets. These experiences not only capture the curiosity of the children, but also encourage cognitive development as they learn about cause and effect, patterns, and the properties of light.



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HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Music & Movement

The holiday season is a fantastic time to incorporate music and movement into your program. Engaging in music and movement activities with toddlers and preschoolers promotes coordination, rhythm, and social interaction. Try adding bells, ribbons, drums, or fabrics to enhance their music experience!



HOW TO MAKE
CINNAMON DOUGH

Supplies

- 1 cup ground cinnamon
- ¾ cup natural unsweetened applesauce
- 2 tbsp white glue

Instructions

- Mix your cinnamon and applesauce. Once mixed, add in your glue. The more you knead the dough, the better the consistency will get.
- Dust your countertop with cinnamon. Knead the dough into a smooth ball and then roll it out to a 1/2 inch circle. If edges split, put it back into a ball and re-roll until smooth. Use cinnamon as you might flour to avoid keeping the dough from sticking.
- Press evergreen leaves into the dough to create imprints. Roll them gently with the rolling pin.
- Use a Mason jar (or cookie cutters) to cut out the shapes around the leaf imprints.
- Make a hole for the string with a straw.
- Use a dehydrator and set ornaments on a tray for 6-10 hours. Alternatively, place them in an oven at 200 degrees for a few hours. Keep an eye on them to make sure they don't dry out or bake.
- Thread twine through the ornaments once dry and hang them on the tree.

HOT CHOCOLATE SENSORY BIN

Hot Chocolate Sensory Ideas

- Hot Chocolate Cloud Dough
- Hot Chocolate Playdough
- Hot Chocolate Oobleck
- Hot Chocolate Slime

Hot Chocolate Sensory Bin Filler Ideas

- Coco Puffs
- Brown Beans
- Brown Rice
- Sand
- Brown Fabrics
- Hot Chocolate Powder
- Brown Chickpeas
- Brown Shredded Paper
- Brown Pompoms (large)
- Brown Buttons (large)
- Brown Yarn (cut into bits)



Hot Chocolate Sensory Bin, Oobleck Style

This sensory bin is very flexible. Once you have your oobleck made you can use whatever you like to scoop, hold, and play with your oobleck. Spoons, measuring cups, mugs, it's all good. Use what you have.

1. Put 2 cups of water into your bin.
2. Add 4 cups of cornstarch. Add it in parts and mix as you go.
3. Keep mixing and adding cornstarch until you reach the oobleck stage. That is when you can run your fingers through the mixture like it is a liquid, but if you push down on it, the mixture is hard.
4. Add a couple of tablespoons of cocoa powder or a packet of hot chocolate mix. This is what turns your sensory bin into a hot chocolate sensory bin. (If you don't have either of those or don't want to use them, you can use brown food coloring.)

CHOCOLATE play dough recipe



www.iheartartsncrafts.com



Sensory Bin Enhancements

- Cups
- Bowls
- Scoops
- Spoons
- Tweezers
- Pompoms
- Drink tray
- Stir sticks
- measuring cups
- Measuring spoons

Remember to choose items that are safe for the ages of the children in your care.



LET IT SNOW!

Why Winter Outdoor Play!

Winter is a magical time of year, with wonders all around to spark children's curiosity. Embracing the chilly winter months with enriching outdoor play activities offers many benefits! It promotes physical development by encouraging movement which develops muscles and coordination. Playing outside in winter also builds resilience: walking through deep snow, picking items up with mittens, and even getting dressed to go outside can all be challenges children can learn to overcome.



Ice Ornaments

AN EASY WINTER CRAFT FOR KIDS
www.thegrowingcreatives.com



Ideas for Winter Outdoor Play!

Snow Kitchen: A great way to use old pots, pans, and other kitchen utensils.

Snow Garden: Add some fake flowers and plants to your snow!

Nature Ice Ornaments: Use muffin trays or molds with water and other nature materials. Allow to freeze and remove from molds.

Colour the Snow!: Get buckets of different coloured water and splash it over the snow. Give the children digging materials and play!



Loose Parts for Winter Outdoor Play!

- Sticks
- Rocks
- Coloured ice cubes
- Evergreens
- Wood Planks
- Tires
- Stumps
- Fabrics

Remember to choose items that are safe for the ages of the children in your care.



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WINTER WONDERLAND

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THERE IS A MAGIC THAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SNOW FALLS. BUT WHEN THE TEMPERATURE DROPS TOO LOW OUR TIME OUTDOORS CAN BE LIMITED. TRY BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN. FROM SNOW, TO ICE, TO THE WILD ANIMALS THAT FIND HOME IN THE WINTERY WORLD, THERE IS SO MUCH FUN TO BE HAD!



Extension Ideas:

One of the easiest ways to celebrate this season is to explore the changes that Mother Nature provides by enjoying fun sensory act fun sens

1. This activity can be done outdoors or indoors. Prepare many colourful ice blocks ahead of time. Use them to colour sort, make towers, or watch them sparkle in the sun.



2. Keeping with the ice cube theme, another activity that can be done indoors or out: Simple Ice Cube Painting.



<http://busytoddler.com/2017/03/painting-ice-cubes-activity/>

Winter Process Art

Art that's more process-focused lets the kids really show off their creative sides.

Polar Bear Art



<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/polar-bear-process-art/>

Snow Storm Art



<https://www.thekeeperofthememories.com/winter-process-art/>

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