



Where learning and play go hand in hand.

Blind Bags Sense of Touch Activity

It's time to explore one of the 5 senses! Together you and your child will use your sense of touch to play this new matching game.

Materials:

- Three pairs of identical objects
- 6 paper bags

Directions:

1. First, place each object in a paper bag.
2. Mix up the paper bags so that paired objects are not together.
3. Have your child try to match up two objects, first by feeling the outside of the bag, and then by reaching into the bag and feeling the object without removing it from the bag.
4. Ask questions about each object while your child is touching the object. Is it heavy or light? Is it bumpy? Is it pointy? What do you think the object is?
5. Once your child thinks they've found a match, pull out the objects to compare them. Were they right? If not, ask them how the objects are different and try again! Can you match up all the objects?

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Science and Stems

Learn about plant stems and how they help a plant get the water it needs to grow! This science experiment is a colorful way to see water travel through celery stalks!

Materials:

- 3 celery stalks freshly cut and with leaves
- 3 containers or glasses
- Food coloring
- Water

Directions:

1. Let your child examine a stalk of celery. Help them identify the leaves and the stem.
2. Show your child the small holes visible at the bottom of the celery stalk. Ask your child what they think these holes are for. Explain that a plant needs water to live and that water enters the plant from these holes and travels up the stem.
3. Place one celery stalk in plain water, place one celery stalk in water with some food coloring (any color that is not green!) and place one celery stalk in a container with no water.
4. Ask your child to predict what they think will happen to each stem and write down their predictions.
5. Leave the three celery stalks out for a few days to suck up the water. Then have your child compare the three stalks. Why does the one without water look wilted? Explain that plants need water to live. Then have your child look at the celery stalk with the food coloring. Explain that the leaves are now colorful because the plant sucked up the colorful water!
6. This process can be repeated with different food coloring, or with different plants such as a white carnation, or Queen Anne's lace (also called wild carrot)!

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Cool Colors

Color mixing art activities are great for teaching your child about primary and secondary colors while making beautiful art! It's also a fun outdoor activity so you can feel free to get a little messy!

Materials:

- Ice cube trays
- Water
- Food coloring
- Empty glasses

Directions:

1. First, place water in the sections of an ice cube tray and then tint the water with red, yellow, and blue food coloring.
2. Let the ice cubes freeze.
3. Have your child choose two ice cubes and place them in a glass of water, repeat this process until you have a glass with red and yellow, a glass with yellow and blue, and a glass with red and blue.
4. Have your child try to guess which colors the ice cubes will make. As the ice melts, the water will change color!
5. To expedite this process you can pour warm water over the ice cubes
6. Once the ice is melted, start using your new watercolors to paint!

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Painted Toast

Who says you can't play with your food? Your children will love painting their own masterpiece and then eating it! This activity is perfect for squeezing a little more creativity into the day.

Materials:

- Bread
- Milk
- Several cups or glasses
- Food coloring
- Something to paint with
- Toaster Oven

Directions:

1. In a glass, mix together several drops of food coloring and some milk.
2. Repeat this process for each color of the food coloring you plan to use.
3. Then, lay out a few pieces of bread on a plate.
4. Have your child paint their own masterpiece on their bread using the colorful milk.
5. Lightly toast the masterpiece and eat!

Note: This activity can be modified by mixing food coloring and plain cream cheese instead of milk for the paint.

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A Clean Scene

Your child will learn about keeping our environment and our water clean for our fish friends who live there! This activity will also help develop gross motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Recipe:

- A bin or tub filled with water
- An empty bucket
- A small fishing or bug net
- Some recyclable litter such as soda bottles, plastic packaging, bubble wrap, and other plastic litter
- Toy fish (can easily be made from foam or sponge)

Directions:

1. First, place toy fish recyclable litter into the bucket of water.
2. Give your little one the fishing or bug net and show them the bin filled with water and litter. If we aren't careful to recycle or throw out our garbage, it can end up in places we don't expect and hurt our animal friends, like how all the litter has gotten into this bin of water.
3. Invite your child to scoop out the litter into the empty bucket to help clean the environment where their fish friends live.
4. If any fish end up in the bucket 'release' them back into the water.
5. Repeat this process until all the litter has been scooped out of the bin of water now the fish are free to swim!