

Sensory Play

11.4.12 ABC

Intro: When you enter a hotel room for the first time what do you do? I'm guessing most of you explore and check out your surroundings. What are some things you check out? Possible answers include checking out the view, flopping on the bed, looking at tv stations, wifi codes, looking for pool, fitness center, hot tub, ice/vending machines, restaurants, etc.

Discuss: According to Piaget According to Piaget infants do not have "thoughts of mind". Instead they come to know their world by actively acting on it through their senses and motor actions. Infants construct knowledge through sensory exploration and play...just like you learned about your hotel room/recreational attributes.

Read article "Sensory Play: Early Exploration Through the Senses" round robin style. <http://www.pbs.org/parents/child-development/sensory-play/developing-and-cultivating-skills-through-sensory-play/sensory-play-early-exploration-through-the-senses/>

Assign questions to follow. Give each student a small handful of pretzels or candy canes for #5.

1. Identify four effects sensory experiences can provide children.
2. How do babies gain information when they interact in the world?
3. Explain a newborn's senses...
 - Sight
 - Hearing
 - Taste
 - Smell
 - Touch
4. Why should parents and caregivers use descriptive language and actions with babies?

5. Give three examples of descriptive words with the pretzels or candy canes you've been given and each of the senses.

- Sight
- Sound
- Touch
- Taste
- Smell

Discuss: Researchers have clearly shown that playtime is vital to intellectual development. Toys can be a tool for learning as well as improve and refine motor skills.

Sensory play is also important as children use their senses to gather information about their surroundings. Children must be able to explore to learn. As caregivers we need to provide sensory rich environments for children so they can practice and apply all their senses and encourage brain development.

Children are naturally curious. They want to explore and learn. So the earlier you expose them to sensory stimulation the better! A great example of this...

View: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ao5bdkHwGh4+feature=related>

Assign: Sensory Toy Project—See guide sheet and rubric for details.



SENSORY TOY PROJECT

A local day care wants to add a sensory play area to their Infant & Toddler center and needs our help...

You are to create (build) a manipulative (hands-on) toy or activity that enhances or promotes sensory development for an infant +/- toddler.

Obviously this toy/activity needs to be safe and require adult supervision. It also needs to be developmentally appropriate, meet some kind of developmental need, encourage learning and stimulate brain development.

You are to choose from the following type of toy/ activity to create for a child who is between 6 months and 24 months of age.

- Sensory Bag
- Auditory Stick
- Texture Book/Board
- Sensory Bottle
- Sensory Box/Bin

Use the Internet and Pinterest to research ideas. You will present your project to the class on _____. In addition, you will complete the questions on the following page.

Sensory Toy

1. Name and describe the toy/activity you created.
2. Explain two ways a child could use it or two things and infant or toddler could DO with it.
3. What two skills or concepts would be developed or promoted by the toy you created.
4. Describe in a paragraph the steps you took and the time and effort you put into PREPARING for your demonstration of this toy or activity.
5. Save for presentations... In your opinion, which of your classmates showed the best effort and most creativity for their sensory toy/activity? Why?

Name _____ Toy _____

Rubric

Criteria	Present	Not Present
Developmentally Appropriate for Infant 6 months-24 months	15	
Meets a Developmental Need or Characteristic with Senses	15	
Safe for Age Range with Supervision	15	
Encourages Learning for Age Range	15	
Creativity, Effort & Time Spent Creating are Evident	15	
Form Completed with Complete sentences	15	
Orally Presented on Assigned Day	15	
Total Points	135	

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