

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum:

Expressive Arts & Design

Exploring & using Media & Materials

Making Sensory Bags

Why this is important:

Sensory bags allow children to explore, discover, imagine, create, and learn while engaging many of their senses. They are great mess free sensory play.

Sensory play impacts many areas of development including:

- Language skills – a child will expand and develop their vocabulary and grammar as they describe the senses they are experiencing.
- Sensory input – providing sensory input to meet a child's needs.
- Fine motor skills – through manipulating small objects, a child's fine motor skills are improved.
- Social skills – by communicating what they are experiencing and sharing sensory play with others, a child will naturally improve their social skills

Useful link to make Sensory bags:

<https://www.learning4kids.net/2015/06/30/how-to-make-squishy-sensory-bags/>

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/48-sensory-bags-roundup/>

8-20m

'Explores and experiments with a range of media through sensory exploration, and using whole body'.

- Let your little one explore the bag, squeezing, pulling and watching what is happening as they do so.

Encourage language by narrating what your child is doing *'that's it Billy squeeze and squeeze'.*

16-26m

'Notices and is interested in the effects of making movements which leave marks.'

- As your child explores the bag encourage them to see what patterns they can make in the bag.
- Encourage language by narrating what your child is doing 'patterns are emerging' 'Extend language ... 'That looks like a snake slithering in the grass'.

22-36m

'Experiments with blocks, colours and marks.'

- Using a variety of resources to press down on the bags to create shapes and marks. Example: You can use Lego pieces, potato masher, pressing your finger down to make footprints shapes.
- Extend on language by repeating what your child says and adding new words.

30-50m

'Beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things.'

- How many different words can your child use to describe the textures and smells of the sensory bags? Write the words down and help your child to count them.

40-60m

'Constructs with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources'

- Challenge your child make their own sensory bags with your support.
- Your child could draw their own set of instructions.

Early Learning Goal

They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.