



Texture Treasure

YOUNGER TODDLERS

- Materials** cube-shaped foam blocks
variety of cloth remnants (cotton, velvet, corduroy, satin, silk, and so on)
fabric glue (adult only)
- What to do**
1. Cover the six faces of a foam block with the cloth remnants, securely attaching the material with fabric glue. Repeat with several blocks.
 2. Invite the children to play with the blocks, encouraging them to touch the different surfaces.
- More to do** Cover each five sides of a foam block with the same material and then cover the remaining side with a different type of material. Use the block to introduce the concepts *same* and *different*.

 Karyn F. Everham, Fort Myers, FL

Sensory Exploration Bottles

YOUNGER TODDLERS

- Materials** empty plastic bottles (16–24 oz.)
water
food coloring (optional)
beads, sequins, buttons, marbles, and small seashells
nail polish (adult only)
duct tape
- What to do**
1. Clean the plastic bottles and rinse thoroughly. Remove the labels.
 2. Fill the bottles with water.
 3. Add beads, sequins, buttons, and marbles to the water.
 4. If desired, add one drop of food coloring to the water. (A little food coloring goes a long way!)
 5. Replace the lid and seal it tightly. To seal the bottle permanently, apply nail polish to the inside of the bottle cap, and replace the cap while the polish is still wet. Cover the cap with duct tape to make it more secure.
Safety Note: Periodically check to make sure the lid is securely sealed.
 6. Toddlers will enjoy tilting the bottles or holding them upside down and watching the objects move in the liquid. The sensory bottles are especially enticing in bright sunlight.



SENSORY

7. Encourage the children to shake the bottles and watch the objects move. Talk about the weight of the objects.

Sarah Eshelman, St. Paul, MN

Sponge Shapes

OLDER TODDLERS

Materials colored sponges
water table
buckets
scissors (adult only)

- What to do**
1. Cut two colors of sponges into two different shapes; for example, yellow circles and blue triangles.
 2. Soak the sponges in water and put them in the water table.
 3. Tape a yellow circle on one bucket and a blue triangle on another bucket (match the colors and shapes to the sponges in the water table).
 4. Invite the children to pick a sponge, squeeze the water out of it, and put it into the correct bucket.

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Texture Box

OLDER TODDLERS

Materials large shoebox with lid
various sensory materials (tape, Velcro, cotton, fake fur, velvet, playdough, and so on)

- What to do**
1. Cut a hole in the top of the box large enough so the child's hand can fit through, but not so big that they can see into the box.
 2. Place various objects inside the box.
 3. Invite a child to reach in and try to guess what he is feeling. Encourage the children to use descriptive language to describe what they are feeling (*soft, hard, squishy, sticky*).

Jennifer Rydin, Milwaukee, WI