

Playdough Mats

- Materials**
- plain vinyl placemats
 - permanent markers
 - stencils and/or cookie cutters of letters and shapes
 - playdough
- What to do**
1. Trace stencils or cookie cutters on plain placemats to create desired designs. For example, use letter stencils to make the children's names or use holiday themed cookie cutters.
 2. Invite the children to make shapes out of playdough using their hands or cookie cutters, and match the shapes to the ones on their placemat.
 3. This is a good activity for matching, one-to-one correspondence, pre-reading, and sequencing.

 Jeanette Denning, Tinley Park, IL

Practice With Favorite Color

- Materials**
- sensory table or large tub
 - scraps of colored construction paper
 - scissors
 - yarn
 - masking tape
- What to do**
1. Fill the sensory table or large tub half full with paper scraps.
 2. Attach scissors to the edge of the table using yarn.
 3. Encourage the children to practice cutting their favorite colors of paper.
 4. Let the children cut the paper into as many small pieces as they want. Each day the pieces will get smaller and smaller as their fine motor skills increase.
 5. This is great for color recognition and cutting practice.

Related books *Hooray for Me!* by Remy Charlip
Quick as a Cricket by Audrey Wood

 Sandy Scott, Vancouver, WA

Sensory Bags

Materials

small plastic zipper-closure bags
 sensory materials (such as sand, shaving cream, and dirt)
 colored plastic chips or buttons
 masking tape

What to do

1. Partially fill each plastic bag with a different sensory material and hide a plastic chip or button in each bag.
2. Close the bags and reinforce the bag closure with masking tape.
3. Invite the children to squish the bags to discover the chip or button.
4. The children will have fun shaking, squeezing, and rolling the bags to discover the hidden item.

 Sandy Scott, Vancouver, WA

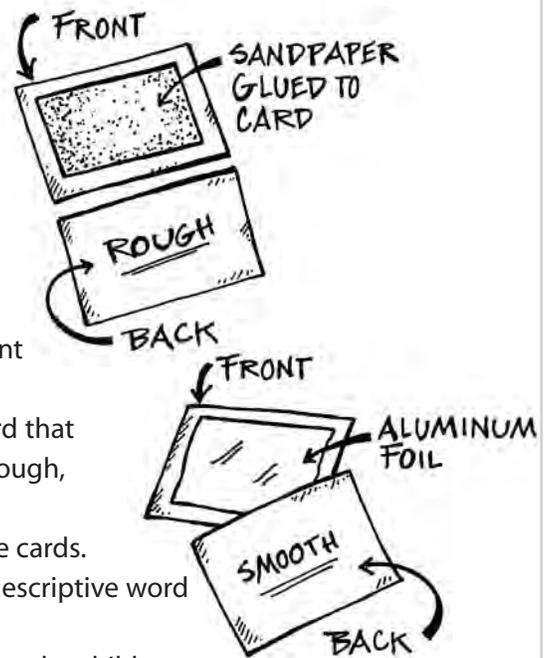
Sensory Cards

Materials

heavy poster board
 scissors
 sandpaper
 fabric with varying textures
 glue
 markers

What to do

1. Cut poster board into cards.
2. Make sensory cards by gluing different textures on each card.
3. On the back of each card, write a word that describes how it feels to the touch (rough, smooth, bumpy, soft, and so on).
4. Let the children take turns feeling the cards. Encourage them to write their own descriptive word or tell you or a friend.
5. If desired, extend the activity by asking the children to find an object in the room that feels similar to the card they felt.



 Vicki Whitehead, Satsuma, AL