

The Importance of Sensory Play: Start Engaging the Senses!

Presented by Nicole Werther
and Rachel Miller,
owners of Backyartists, LLC

Webinar

BECKER'S

The Importance
of Sensory Play
**Start Engaging
the Senses**

Presented by
The Backyartists
Nicole & Rachel
April 27th @ 1 PM ET

Goals



- What is sensory play?
- Why is it important?
- Let's Brainstorm!
 - Sensory Bases
 - Accessories
 - Bins
- Clean Up Ideas
- Resources

What is sensory play?

Sensory Play is play that engages children's senses: touch, hearing, sight, smell, and even taste.



What are the developmental benefits of sensory play?

- Fine Motor Skills
- Spatial Awareness
- Pre-Math Skills
- Science
- Vocabulary Development
- Social and Emotional Development

Fine Motor Skills



Spatial Awareness



Pre-Math Skills



Science



Vocabulary Development



Social and Emotional Development



Sensory Bases

Let's brainstorm a list of sensory bases together!

Water





Ideas:

Freezing and melting with animals in ice and pipettes

Car wash with soapy water, toothbrushes, nasal aspirators, sponges, and foam rollers



Ping pong balls with kitchen utensils
Pom poms with citrus presses and
salad spinners





A new use for salad spinners!

Additional Water Play Ideas

Washing babies

Foam blocks with water

Buoyancy (what objects sink and float)

Mud kitchen

Paint with water

Fill empty bottles and dump

Use tubes to create water slides/pipes

Kinetic Sand



Food Bases



*some centers do not allow food based sensory bases

Accessories

What types of accessories do you add to your sensory bins?

For:

Dumping, scooping, pouring, imaginative play, etc.

Types of Bins



What types of sensory bins do you use?

This may depend on whether you're using sensory bins in a preschool/childcare setting or at home

Modifications Based on Children's Needs

- Utilize larger items for younger children/those who mouth objects, make sure nothing is small enough to choke on
- Offer sensory bags or bottles that can be sealed
- Use taste safe materials (water, oatmeal, cornmeal, cereal, etc.)
- Provide opportunities for imaginative play/small world play
- Change bases and accessories to match children's interests and classroom themes

Ways to make clean up easier

Cover floors and tables with tarps or drop cloths to contain small pieces

When using wet materials (paint, etc), cover surfaces with plastic shower curtains

Keep clothing clean by covering with smocks or old shirts

Add dish soap to your paint to help it wash off more easily

Take the messiest projects outside!

Tarps!



Shower Curtains and Soapy Paint!



Take it outside!

Smocks!



Resources

<https://bostonmoms.com/motherhood/beat-the-summer-heat-and-embrace-the-fun-and-educational-world-of-sensory-play/>

<https://health.clevelandclinic.org/benefits-of-sensory-play-ideas/>

<https://www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/blog/2018/02/sensory-play-importance/>

<https://www.shopbecker.com/resource-cafe/beckers-blog/arts-and-crafts/messy-play-without-the-mess/>