

# VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

#### **VOLUME #161** DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES AND YOUR CHILD SERIES #2 - TACTILE LEARNERS

# **HELLO PARENTS**,

Tactile learning is a learning style in which a child absorbs information through physical touch. Tactile learners are doers and creators who prefer to build, draw, move things around, or take things apart and put them back together. Fidgeting with objects while learning helps them to concentrate, and they need frequent breaks while reading or studying. In this newsletter, we offer activities that will benefit tactile learners and help them flourish.

# **ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)**

#### SENSORY BOARD

MATERIALS:

- Thick cardboard
- Sensory materials. For example: light switches, bells, zippers, buttons, a mirror, etc.
- Strong glue

**DIRECTIONS:** 

- Use strong glue to attach sensory materials to the cardboard.
- Encourage your child to explore the items.
- Comment on what your child is doing, and name the materials and the feelings they may have when they touch them.

<u>Click here</u> for more activity ideas.

# **TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)**

### **DISCOVERING HANDS**

**MATERIALS:** 

- Small blanket
- Small toys

**DIRECTIONS:** 

- Invite your child to explore the toys using their hands.
- Place one toy under the blanket.
- Ask your child to put their hands under the blanket, examine the toy and quess what it is
- If your child cannot guess the toy, put your hands under the blanket and study the toy together, pointing to some characteristics that you can both feel with your hands.
- Allow your child time to think.

Click here for more ideas.

## **PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)**

#### SOUISHY COLOUR BAGS

MATERIALS:

- Large tray
- Red, blue, and yellow paint
- 3 clear Ziploc bags
- Tape

**DIRECTIONS:** 

- Place two different paints into each Ziploc bag in the corners opposite each other.
- Seal and strengthen the squishy bags, then tape the bags onto the tray.
- Ask your child to gently press and push the paints to the centre of the bag, and rub the paints to mix.
- Encourage your child to observe the colours blending together and name the new colours created.
- The squishy bags can also be reused for a writing activity. Your child can write letters, numbers, or draw pictures and shapes using their fingers.

Click here to read the story "Little Blue and Little Red" by Leo Lionni.



#### **DRAW ON MY BACK DIRECTIONS:**

- Take turns with your child drawing with your fingers on each other's backs
- Try to guess what the other person is drawing.
- Start with shapes, then progress to letters of your names, numbers, letters of the alphabet, etc.

Click here for more ideas.

## SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

## **RECYCLED MOSAIC**

MATERIALS:

- Collection of natural and recycled materials. For example: bottle caps, corrugated paper, small containers, sticks, pebbles, etc.
- Glue
  - Thick paper
  - Pencil

**DIRECTIONS:** 

- Start by sorting your materials. Consider their textures, colours and shapes.
- Draw a design for your mosaic. For example: a robot, a favourite cartoon character, a nature view, etc.
- Glue the objects, starting on the outlines of your design and then filling in the shape.

Click here for more ideas.



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#### **A TIP FOR TODAY**

- Engage your child in activities that involve touching, building, moving, or drawing.
- Do lots of hands-on activities like completing art projects, doing science experiments or acting out stories.
- Take frequent breaks during reading or studying periods.
- Incorporate the sense of touch into learning. For example, provide your child with a stress ball to squeeze at school.
- Limit the number of visual and auditory distractions from your child's learning environment.



