



HELLO PARENTS,

Sensory play could be any activity that stimulates children's senses of touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing, as well as anything which engages movement and balance. Literacy is the ability to read, view, write, design, speak and listen in a way that allows children to communicate effectively and to make sense of the world. Incorporating literacy into sensory play is a great way to engage your child in learning letters, words, and communication while having fun. In this newsletter, we offer fun activities that will support your child's literacy learning through sensory play.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

BUBBLE WRAP ART

MATERIALS:

- Tape
- Different colour paint
- Bubble wrap

DIRECTIONS:

- Fold a sheet of bubble wrap with the bubbles on the outside and seal two sides with tape to create a bubble wrap packet.
- Place the paint inside the packet and seal the remaining edge.
- Tape the entire bubble wrap packet to the tray. This will prevent your child from picking it up and putting it in their mouth.
- While your child is tapping and mixing the paint, talk to them about what is happening to the paint and the sound of bubbles popping.
- To extend this activity, pick up your child and bounce them on the bubble wrap.

[Click here](#) to read about sensory exploration.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

EXPLORE TEXTURES

MATERIALS:

- Items with different textures

DIRECTIONS:

- Place several items with different textures in front of your child.
- Describe the textures of the items. For example: soft, rough, smooth, bumpy, fluffy, etc.
- Choose one item and encourage your child to find another item from your home that has the same or similar texture as the one you chose.
- To make this game more challenging encourage your child to choose two different items, compare their textures, and talk about their similarities and differences.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

SAND TRAY WRITING

MATERIALS:

- Sand
- Shallow tray
- Feather

DIRECTIONS:

- Cover the bottom of the tray with sand.
- Encourage your child to explore the sand with their hands.
- Provide a feather to your child and observe what they can do with the feather in the sand tray.
- If your child tries to write something using the hard end of the feather, encourage them to describe what they are doing.
- You can also use different writing tools such as straw, stick, stone etc. to keep the writing process more interesting.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

SPY THE LETTER

MATERIALS:

- Shaving cream
- Tray
- Foam or plastic letters
- Paper
- Pen

DIRECTIONS:

- Choose some letters and have your child write them down.
- Place the letters on the tray and cover them with shaving cream.
- Call out a letter and have your child look for it.
- When the letter is found, encourage your child to pronounce it and give an example of a word starting with this letter.
- Cross out the letter from the list after it is found.
- Take turns playing this game.

[Click here](#) to listen to the ABC song.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

MOVIES CHARADES

MATERIALS:

- Pencil
- Paper

DIRECTIONS:

- Discuss with your friends or family movies that you all know, and list their titles.
- Choose one title from the list and act it out in front of the group.
- The participants will try to guess what movie title you are acting out.
- The person who guesses it right will have the next turn to act out another movie title.
- You can create other categories to act out, such as: books, songs, etc.
- Here are some common clues used in charades:
 - To indicate a book, pretend to read a book.
 - To indicate a song, pretend to sing.
 - To indicate a movie, pretend to crank an old movie camera.
 - To indicate the number of words, hold up that many fingers.

[Click here](#) for more charades ideas.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Build a literacy-rich sensory board using alphabet stickers, tactile books and other objects for your child to explore.
- Sing songs and say rhymes to help your child learn new words and hear the smaller sounds in words.
- Encourage your child to identify the letters or words in the environment. For example: store signs, advertisements, street signs, etc.
- Provide your child with sensory bins filled with different materials for fun hands-on learning.