Bugs Sensory Bin

The students will explore different textures by touching bugs, leaves, sticks, sand, etc. and will be encouraged to find objects hidden in the various mediums.

Learning Outcomes

Domain: Cognitive

Skills: Matching

Indicator: Repeating actions that produce outcomes. Focused play. Exploring objects. Match plastic bug to photo.

Materials

- Large ziplock bag (3-5 gallon) for (6 weeks - 12 months)
- Bin for (12-24 months)
- Tape
- Plastic bugs
- Sand, grass, leaves, dry black beans, soil
- Accessories like magnifying glass, books about bugs, binoculars, child-size tweezers, collection jars for extension play (12-24 months)

Instructions

Step 1: Depending on the age of the child, fill a bin (older) or a plastic zip bag (younger) with a few mediums like sand, leaves, grass as well as 5-10 different plastic bugs.

Step 2: Have the bin or bag on the floor or at a low table where children can access them.

Step 3: Allow 1-2 children to safely explore the sensory bin or bag! Sit with them and engage by exploring with them to model how to play.

Step 4: Show gentle hands and how to keep items in the bin while you play. Say things like, “Wow, look what I found!”, “This bug is red!”, “I found four bugs. I wonder how many more there are!”

Step 5: As an extension activity, have students put each bug in a jar with a matching photo of the bug on it to practice matching! Be sure to take a photo of the exact plastic bug for little ones so they can be successful in matching.

Step 6: Have various books in the science area about bugs to help encourage exposure to literature.

Playful Questions

- What kinds of bugs are there?
- How many legs does a bug have?
- Where do bugs live?
- Why are some people scared of bugs?
- How are bugs helpful?