

Bugs Sensory Bin



1
Infant
6 weeks - 2 years

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?