

## Sensory treasure hunt

Encourage children to explore their senses with a treasure hunt!

### Learning aims

- Learning through the senses
- Playing and exploring
- Using language for communicating
- Using descriptive language
- Following instructions
- Being curious
- Finding out about the natural world
- Finding about the different properties of materials.



### Resources

- Small drawstring bags or boxes
- A variety of different textured objects e.g. pebbles, shells, various textured materials, wool, wood, sand, bark, sandpaper, metal spoons, cotton wool, etc
- Cameras.

## Activity Outline

- Place one object in each bag or box
- Take a small group of children outdoors and explain you're going to go on a sensory treasure hunt!
- One by one, give each child a bag or box and ask them to feel the object inside each bag without looking at it
- In turn, encourage children to describe what the object feels like. Model descriptive language, e.g. smooth, rough, soft, hard, fluffy, bumpy, cold, warm etc.
- Next, ask the children to go and find an object that 'feels the same' as the object in their bag.
  - Encourage them to use descriptive language and repeat back words they use to reinforce language
- Encourage children to think about 'what else' may feel smooth, rough, soft, hard etc. and ask them if they can go and find another object matching the same description
- Swap the bags/boxes around and give each child a turn of feeling the different textures and surfaces of the objects and go through the same process
- Why not create a visual and interactive display?
  - Encourage children to take photographs of different textured objects and arrange them in groups on a visual display.
  - Display the objects on a table and encourage children to match the objects through their sense of touch.

## Extending the activity

Indoors, let babies explore treasure baskets with different textured objects.

Outside, let babies experience the feel of natural textures with their hands and feet, e.g. grass, leaves, flowers, wood, water etc.

Ensure both activities are well supervised.