

Wonder Sensory Basket

At this age, young children are learning through touch, repetition, and real-world objects. This activity introduces vocabulary, supports sensory development, and turns everyday exploration into meaningful learning.

What you need:

- Safe household objects with different textures, shapes and sounds
- Natural & Textured Items (pinecones, smooth stones or pebbles (large), natural sponge/loofah, large seashells)
- Household Items (wooden spoon, plastic/metal/silicone measuring cups and/or spoons, spatulas, oversized spoons, washcloth)
- Baby-Safe Sensory Items (soft hairbrush, baby toothbrush, rubber bath toy, large pom-poms, fabric scrunchie, small beanbags, textured balls)
- Sound & Movement (maraca or sealed container with rice/beads, old keys on a plastic ring, bells inside a securely taped container)
- Visual Interest (baby-safe mirror, kaleidoscope or clear water bottle with glitter water)



What to do:

1. Choose objects that are large enough to avoid choking hazards. Clean and dry all items
2. Place 4-5 everyday items in the basket
3. Sit with the child as they explore, let them touch, bang, shake, and mouth the items
4. As they engage, ask open-ended questions and comment to help build language and connection:
 - What does it feel like? That's a big spoon!
 - What do you think it's for?
 - Which one makes a noise when you shake it? Which one feels light? Which one feels heavy?
 - Shake it! What sound does it make? I wonder what's inside?
5. Always supervise closely.

Add a "Routine" twist: Rotate the items weekly or do the activity after snack or before nap each day so it becomes part of their routine.

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