

BABY STEPS & TODDLER EXPLORERS

BIRTH TO 24
MONTHS

FALL LEAF SENSORY BAG

MATERIALS:

- GALLON-SIZE ZIPPER STORAGE BAG
- WATER
- VEGETABLE OIL
- FOOD COLORING
- FALL LEAVES COLLECTED FROM OUTSIDE
- MASKING TAPE

OBJECTIVES:

- EXPLORATION OF SEASONS AND NATURE
- COLOR EXPLORATION AND RECOGNITION
- SENSORY EXPLORATION: TOUCH, SIGHT, AND SOUND
- LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT: LEAVES, COLORS, FALL

INSTRUCTIONS:

THIS ACTIVITY IS PERFECT OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS ALIKE. TODDLERS WILL ESPECIALLY LOVE HELPING TO COLLECT LEAVES FROM OUTSIDE AND HELP MAKE THE SENSORY BAGS. THIS IS A (JUST ABOUT) MESS-FREE ACTIVITY!

- GATHER LEAVES FROM THE GROUND OUTSIDE. LOOK FOR VARIETIES IN SHAPE AND COLOR. YOU WILL USE 5 TO 7 PER GALLON BAG. IF YOU HAVE A TODDLER OR WALKING INFANT, ALLOWING THEM TO HELP PICK UP LEAVES AND TALK ABOUT HOW THE LEAVES CHANGE IN THE FALL, AND HOW THEY FALL OFF THE TREES.
- IN A SMALL CUP OR BOWL, MIX SOME FOOD COLORING OF YOUR CHOICE INTO YOUR VEGETABLE OIL. THIS MIGHT TAKE SOME VIGOROUS MIXING TO GET THE COLOR TO BLEND WITH THE OIL.
- FILL YOUR GALLON BACK ABOUT 1/3 OF THE WAY WITH WATER. YOU DON'T NEED MUCH, AS YOU WILL SEAL IT AND LAY IT FLAT TO PLAY WITH AND YOU WANT THERE TO BE LOTS OF ROOM TO SQUISH THINGS AROUND.
- DROP A FEW DROPS OF YOUR COLORED OIL INTO THE WATER IN THE BAG. ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO DO THIS PART WITH YOU IF THEY ARE ABLE.
- DROP A FEW OF YOUR FALL LEAVES INTO THE BAG WITH THE OIL AND WATER. ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO DO THIS PART WITH YOU IF THEY ARE ABLE.
- CAREFULLY ZIP THE BAG CLOSED, TRYING CAREFULLY TO HAVE VERY LITTLE AIR IN THE BAG WITH THE WATER SO WHEN YOU LAY IT ON A TABLE OR FLOOR, IT LAYS FLAT. FOR EXTRA SECURITY TO PREVENT LEAKS, TAPE THE EDGE CLOSED WITH MASKING TAPE. (IF YOU ARE MAKING THESE AHEAD OF TIME, YOU CAN USE HOT GLUE TO SEAL THE BAG AS WELL.
- ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO SPLASHM SQUISH, AND POKE AT THE BAG! THE COLORED OIL WILL SWIRL, AND THE LEAVES WILL FLOAT THROUGH THE WATER AND COLORS, MAKING IT FUN AND INTERESTING FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS.

*TODDLERS CAN SIT AT A TABLE OR ON THE FLOOR AND PLAY WITH THESE BAGS. IF BABY CANNOT SIT UNASSISTED YET, TRY THIS WHILE SITTING IN A HIGH CHAIR OR DURING TUMMY TIME. **BE SURE TO VERY CLOSELY SUPERVISE CHILDREN WHILE THEY PLAY WITH THIS SENSORY BAG AS PLASTIC BAGS CAN POSE A SUFFOCATION HAZARD.**

We'd love to see photos of your at home learning! Tag us on Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #MeritSchoolAtHome

