

TODDLER EXPLORERS

16 TO 24 MONTHS



PUMPKIN SPICE SENSORY BIN

MATERIALS:

- PLASTIC BIN (AT LEAST SHOE BOX SIZE OR LARGER, THAT CAN BE PLACED ON THE FLOOR OR A TABLE AND PLAYED WITH)
- GALLON SIZE ZIPLOC BAG
- 1LB OR MORE DRY RICE
- FOOD COLORING (THINK FALL COLORS: RED, ORANGE, YELLOW, ETC.)
- HAND SANITIZER
- PUMPKIN PIE SPICE, OR MAKE YOUR OWN WITH SPICES LIKE CINNAMON, NUTMEG, CARDAMOM, STAR ANISE, ETC.
- ITEMS TO PUT IN SENSORY BIN LIKE CINNAMON STICKS, PINE CONES, LEAVES, ETC.

OBJECTIVES:

- SENSORY EXPLORATION: TOUCH, SIGHT, SMELL
- COLOR RECOGNITION
- LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT
- TACTILE PLAY

INSTRUCTIONS:

- FIRST WE WILL NEED TO COLOR AND SCENT THE RICE:
 - MIX FOOD COLORING WITH A FEW SQUIRTS OR PUMPS OF HAND SANITIZER. THIS HELPS THIN OUT THE DYE, ADHERE TO THE RICE BETTER, AND SPEED UP DRYING PROCESS.
 - PUT A PORTION OF RICE (EG: IF YOU ARE USING 3 COLORS, USE 1/3. IF YOU ARE USING 2 COLORS, USE HALF) INTO THE ZIPLOC BAG AND ADD YOUR HAND SANITIZER AND FOOD COLOR MIXTURE.
 - ADD YOUR DESIRED SPICES TO THE RICE AND FOOD COLOR.
 - SHAKE THE BAG TO MIX! TODDLERS LOVE TO MOVE AND MAKE NOISE, SO YOUR CHILD MIGHT REALLY ENJOY DOING THIS PART THEMSELVES!
 - SPREAD COLORED RICE ON A COOKIE SHEET OR SIMILAR SURFACE TO DRY.
 - REPEAT WITH EACH COLOR
- ONCE YOU'VE DYED AND DRIED ALL OF YOUR RICE, POUR INTO PLASTIC BIN
- ADD THE ITEMS YOU CHOSE, LIKE WHOLE CINNAMON STICKS, PINE CONES, ETC. TO THE BIN WITH THE RICE
- DIG IN! PLAY, POUR, DIG, SIFT, AND SMELL THE FUN SCENTS OF FALL!

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

