Do Touch!

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Lesson Summary for Preschool/Kindergarten

In this lesson students explore the sense of touch. Cross-curricular activities in language arts, social studies, math, drama, and art are included.

Science Activity 1: Feely Balloons

Students investigate unknown solids using the sense of touch.

Source: Sarquis, M. *Exploring Matter with TOYS;* McGraw-Hill: New York, 1997; pp 59–65. (ISBN 0-07-064724-0)

Key Science Topics:

- classification
- multiple senses
- sight
- states of matter
- touch

Cincinnati Public Schools Promotion Standards:

1.2 (Reading) Children develop an interest and appreciation for books.
1.5 (Reading) Children begin to understand how a book works.
2.1 (Nature of Science) Children begin to understand that different tools are used to measure things.
2.3 (Nature of Science) Children gain new information through sensory experiences.
10.1 (Nature of Science) Children begin listening, creating, and questioning about their natural world.
13.1 (Physical Science) Children describe objects by similarities and differences.
24.1 (Data Analysis and Probability) Children begin to recognize a way to record their observations.

Before beginning the lesson, gather objects of different textures and place one object at a time inside a feely bag. Have students use the feely bag to predict the objects inside and let students use words to describe what his/her hand feels. Help each student describe the texture of each object.

As a way of introducing the lesson, read the story *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn to the class and then discuss it. The book is about a young raccoon hesitant to attend school. His mother tells the raccoon all the fun he will have at school and then shares the secret of the kissing hand. His mother takes his hand, kisses it, and tells the raccoon to put his hand on his face. The kiss will jump from his hand and onto his face so he can remember her kiss each time he misses her. The young raccoon uses the kissing hand to experience his mother's warmth and he adjusts to school. Show students the book cover and ask:

Which body part do the raccoons use when they touch one another? Do you think their hands feel rough or smooth? Do their hands feel heavy or light? Do their hands feel cold or warm?

Students use their sense of touch to match feely gloves in this science activity. The materials needed for the activity are: six rubber gloves, sand, cornstarch, rice, and a funnel. Before the exploration, fill two gloves with each of the dry materials. Close the end of each rubber glove with a rubber band. Have each student match the rubber gloves that feel the same. Are any of the gloves warmer than the others? Are any of the gloves softer or harder than the others? Are any of the gloves heavier or lighter than the others? Use a pan balance to find out. Show the children small jars of rice, cornstarch, and sand. Show them that each of them takes space inside the jar and are called "solids." Explain to the students that they are learning through their sense of touch. Often scientists must learn through the sense of touch as they explore new materials.

Science Activity 2: Gluep

Students make this cross-linked polymer putty material and discover some of its unusual properties.

Source: Sarquis, M. *Exploring Matter with TOYS;* McGraw-Hill: New York, 1997; pp 71–77. (ISBN 0-07-064724-0)

Key Science Topics:

- classification
- multiple senses
- polymers
- sight
- states of matter
- touch

Cincinnati Public Schools Promotion Standards:

2.1 (Nature of Science) Children begin to understand that different tools are used to measure things.
2.3 (Nature of Science) Children gain new information through sensory experiences.
10.1 (Nature of Science) Children begin listening, creating, and questioning about their natural world.
13.1 (Physical Science) Children describe objects by similarities and differences.

Students further explore the sense of touch by making non-Newtonian liquids in this activity. Give each student a zipper-closing baggie. Make Gluep in the baggies. Use the procedure in the Getting Ready section. Have students squeeze and knead the mixture until they've formed Gluep. Ask students how the Gluep feels. Does it keep the same shape? The Gluep is a non-Newtonian mixture because the chains of molecules cross over one another and move. Our sense of touch tells us that Gluep is very different from other substances in our environment.

Writing Activity

Students explore body words.

Have students trace their hands and feet on paper. Explain that we learn through the sense of touch with our hands and feet. Copy words from the body parts word bank. Can they touch or feel with this body part?

Cincinnati Public Schools Promotion Standards:

4.2 (Reading) Children begin to understand that they can communicate through writing.

Art Activity

Students create Sticky-Side-Up Placemats.

Cut a rectangular piece of contact paper for each child. Peel off the backing and place the sticky side up. Let the child choose what he or she wishes to stick on the sticky paper to create a design or pattern. Choices may include rickrack, lace, ribbon, sequins, paper cutouts, or pictures. When the child is finished, place a second sheet of clear contact paper over the first, and trim the edges to make a placemat. Have children cover their eyes and try to figure out what items are in different areas of the placemat. Placemats can be sent home.

References and Further Reading

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