

We Skoolhouse



Ready-Made Curriculum: Texture Exploration

A Practical Guide for Exploration

Each unit offers a suggested flow of experiences designed to support deep, meaningful learning through play. You'll notice intentional repetition—this is purposeful. Repeating activities builds memory, mastery, confidence, attention, and focus, forming the foundation for long-term learning.

The experiences are open-ended & process-driven, focusing on how children learn rather than what they produce. This allows for a range of learning styles & encourages exploration at each child's unique pace.

Flexibility Matters

Each unit includes a suggested daily activity guide to support your planning—but it's not meant to be followed rigidly or completed in a set order:

- **Follow the children's lead:** If they're deeply engaged, slow down. If interest fades, it's okay to pause and return later. Some children need time to warm up to new ideas—don't move on too quickly. Repeating an invitation over several days can spark richer engagement.
- **Move at your own pace:** Stretch a week into two, repeat activities as long as needed, and allow units to grow over time.
- **Revisit, don't rush:** There's no need to introduce a new unit each month. Returning to a familiar concept—like revisiting water after exploring texture or paint—deepens understanding and strengthens memory. Revisiting isn't starting over—it's going further.

This guide is about making space for curiosity, experimentation, and meaningful learning. Use it as a springboard—trust yourself, trust the children, and allow learning to unfold naturally.



Unit: Texture Exploration

Textures introduce infants to a rich variety of sensory experiences that help with their cognitive development. By feeling different materials like soft cotton balls, rough sandpaper, or smooth silk, babies begin to differentiate between textures and develop fine motor skills as they grasp, pull, or rub different surfaces.

Domain	How Texture Exploration Supports Development
Physical	Promotes tactile discrimination as infants grasp, rub, and stroke various materials. These sensory-motor experiences refine hand function, build grip strength, and support nervous system organization.
Cognitive	Stimulates neural connections through contrast and novelty in texture (soft, rough, bumpy). Repetition builds early categorization skills and supports sensory integration—essential for adaptive responses to stimuli.
Language	Encourages early auditory-linguistic mapping as caregivers describe textures ("scratchy," "fuzzy," "smooth"). Paired sensory-language exposure builds foundational vocabulary and language processing pathways.
Social-Emotional	Offers opportunities for co-regulation during gentle, shared touch experiences. Predictable routines like texture baskets or sensory boards provide emotional safety and enhance the infant-caregiver bond.

Unit: Texture Exploration

Focus Materials: Cotton, sandpaper, fur, silk, foam, and various materials for boards & baskets

Books: Touch and Feel: Farm Animals (DK Books), and Pat the Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt

Songs: "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," and "If You're Happy and You Know It"

Vocabulary: Soft, rough, smooth, bumpy, fuzzy, hard, squishy, sticky, silky, dry, wet, cool, warm, prickly

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Touching Soft Cotton	Sandpaper Exploration	Silky Scarf Mobile	Sandpaper Exploration	Touching Soft Cotton
Week 2	Sensory Board Play	Touching Soft Cotton	Sensory Board Play	Sandpaper Exploration	Silky Scarf Mobile
Week 3	Touching Soft Cotton	Silky Scarf Mobile	Discovery Basket	Sensory Board Play	Discovery Basket
Week 4	Discovery Basket	Sandpaper Exploration	Sensory Board Play	Discovery Basket	Silky Scarf Mobile

Unit: Texture Exploration

Suggested Activities

- **Touching soft cotton:** Babies rub or squeeze cotton or soft fabric, building tactile sensitivity and fine & gross motor skills.
- **Sandpaper exploration:** Babies touch coarse or fine sandpaper, discovering rough textures and learning contrast through safe sensory play.
- **Silky scarf mobile:** Hang silky scarves from a play gym or ceiling for babies to swat and watch, encouraging touch and visual tracking.
- **Sensory board play:** Create a board with mixed materials (felt, foil, ribbon, bubble wrap) securely glued down for babies to explore textures with their hands, strengthening sensory processing.
- **Discovery basket:** Fill a low basket with safe household items (sponges, brushes, wooden spoons) for babies to grasp, mouth, and explore freely.

Alternatives and Extensions:

Explore these simple variations to extend play, supporting repetition, variety, and deeper sensory learning:

- **Sensory sticks:** Offer popsicle sticks with different textures (cotton, ribbon, sandpaper, bubble wrap) for babies to hold, mouth, & explore.
- **Touch-and-feel books:** Books with built-in textures invite tactile play during early reading moments.
- **Texture-filled sensory tubes:** Clear tubes with varied materials for babies to shake and examine.
- **Texture path crawling:** Create a floor path of different fabrics for crawling babies to feel under their hands and knees.

