

We Skoolhouse _____



Ready-Made Curriculum: Fabric 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: Fabric Exploration

Fabrics offer a rich sensory experience for infants, introducing them to various textures such as softness, smoothness, and crinkling sounds. This exploration helps babies refine their tactile senses, discover the concepts of texture and contrast, and enjoy the calming, repetitive motions of touching, rubbing, and grasping, all while strengthening their fine and gross motor development too.

Domain	How Fabric Exploration Supports Development
Physical	Encourages grasp reflex development and emerging fine motor control as infants reach, scrunch, and pull soft materials. Lightweight fabrics also support visual tracking and early hand-eye coordination.
Cognitive	Introduces object permanence and sensory differentiation as babies notice variations in texture, weight, and movement (e.g., sheer vs. fleece). Engaging with fabrics builds early sensory categorization.
Language	Promotes early language comprehension as caregivers name and describe textures and actions ("soft," "peekaboo," "pull it out"). Pairing touch with words builds foundational auditory-sensory links.
Social-Emotional	Provides co-regulatory routines through snuggling, peekaboo, and shared sensory experiences. Familiar fabrics (blankets, scarves) offer emotional security and comfort cues, building secure attachment.

Unit: Fabric Exploration

Focus Materials: Soft fabrics, scarves, textured cloths/boards, crinkly fabric

Books: Pat the Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt, Touch and Feel: Clothes by DK

Songs: "Do Your Ears Hang Low," and "Rock-a-Bye Baby"

Vocabulary: Fabric, soft, smooth, fuzzy, rough, blanket, scarf, touch, rub, wrap, pull, tug, thin, thick, cozy

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Hands & feet in soft fabrics	Peek-a-boo with scarves	Hands & feet in soft fabrics	Exploring texture board	Crinkling fabric sounds
Week 2	Peek-a-boo with scarves	Watching sheer fabrics float	Crinkling fabric sounds	Hands & feet in soft fabrics	Exploring textures board
Week 3	Crinkling fabric sounds	Watching sheer fabrics float	Hands & feet in soft fabrics	Peek-a-boo with scarves	Exploring texture board
Week 4	Hands & feet in soft fabrics	Crinkling fabric sounds	Watching sheer fabrics float	Peek-a-boo with scarves	Exploring texture boards

Unit: Fabric Exploration

Suggested Activities

- **Hands and feet in soft fabrics:** Babies feel gentle textures by moving their hands & feet across soft materials like fleece or velvet.
- **Peek-a-boo with scarves:** Babies play peek-a-boo using lightweight scarves, building connection, surprise, object permanence concepts, and early social skills.
- **Exploring texture boards:** Babies touch and rub different fabric patches on a board, discovering a variety of textures.
- **Crinkling fabric sounds:** Babies squeeze or touch crinkly materials to hear and feel the sound they make.
- **Watching sheer fabrics float:** Babies observe light, airy fabrics drifting through the air, stimulating visual tracking and curiosity.

Alternatives and Extensions:

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

- **Tugging fabric from a box or basket:** Babies pull scarves or cloths from an opening, building motor skills and curiosity.
- **Fabric draped over a play gym:** Hang various fabrics for babies to reach, kick, or look through, adding texture and color to their environment.
- **Rolling on a fabric mat:** Babies lie or roll on different fabric surfaces (like silk, corduroy, or sherpa) to feel full-body textures.
- **Fabric "treasure basket":** Fill a basket with safe, varied textiles for babies to explore freely with their hands and mouths.

