

Sensory Hat Creations

Encourage children to explore their senses by creating fun hats!

Learning aims

- Expressive Arts and Design
- Understanding the World
- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Creative and Critical Thinking.



Resources

- Variety of different hats (for children to look at)
- Old hats (for children to decorate)
- Variety of different materials e.g. silky material, furry material, ribbons, cellophane, wool
- Selection of open-ended items e.g. old newspapers, different textured paper, cardboard shapes
- Natural items e.g. leaves, flowers, twigs, herbs, corks
- Selection of other creative craft items e.g. feathers
- Glue, string, sticky tape etc
- Photos, pictures, books, images of hats.

Activity Outline

- Prior to the activity, ask staff or parents if they have any old hats they would like to donate for the children to decorate. And/or visit a charity shop for inexpensive hats
- Talk to the children about hats. Share photos, books and images of different types of hats from around the world. Encourage children to explore a selection of hats and notice the textures and colours. Talk about why we wear hats e.g. to keep warm, to keep us safe, as part of a uniform, to dress up for a special occasion
- Ask the children if they have a favourite hat and why
- Show children the resources and explain that they can make their own special hat
- Provide as wide a range of natural and open-ended materials as possible to stimulate children's imagination and creativity
- Allow children to choose whether they use an old hat as a base, or create their own from scratch
- Listen to the children and take notice of their conversations. If they can't find a resource they would like, help them to find it or think of alternatives to finish their creation
- Support children who are having difficulty cutting out and attaching items as appropriate
- Ask open-ended questions to help them think about how they will ensure the hat fits their head, how they may attach items, what else they may need etc.
- Take photos of the children at intervals during their creations
- Allow children time and space to revisit the activity later if they wish to
- Don't forget to praise their efforts
- Encourage children to take photos of each other wearing their hats and create a display.

Extending the activity

- Why not have a parade where all the children wear their hats and talk about them
- Invite parents to be part of the fun!
- Have a selection of different hats for babies to explore; babies love putting things on and off their heads.