

Sensory tunnels and boxes

Sensory development is a key area of early years so texture plays a big part in this area of learning.

It is important to provide lots of different opportunities for children to experience textures through resources.

Resources

- Large cardboard box
- Different fabrics, e.g. wool, cotton, velvet, satin
- Foil, sandpaper, cellophane
- Metal (e.g. a CD), plastic, wood
- Sensory toys, e.g. squeaky dog toys, rainmakers
- Cushions, blankets etc
- Low voltage or battery operated lights
- Sticky tape.



Activity Outline

1. Find an area to place your sensory box or tunnel
2. Using sticky tape, stick the materials onto the cardboard inside (and outside if you wish to extend it further)
3. Stick the lights onto the roof inside the box to light the space up
4. Place the toys and cushions inside the box for the children to sit down comfortably and explore and investigate
5. Role model by lying down and placing your head inside
6. Allow children time to get used to the new resource - then they will use it freely
7. To make a tunnel, simply open the ends of the cardboard box.

