

CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Promote Sensory Exploration

In the toddler 2 video, the teacher has set up a sensory table with straw, bowls, and a farm set. Teachers can provide opportunities throughout the day for children to experience new materials through their senses. The teacher in the video promotes sensory exploration by:

- asking questions like, “How does the straw feel? Is it soft? Is it sharp?”
- suggesting pretend play actions with the straw
- introducing rich vocabulary words
- offering opportunities to learn about texture and weight

Practice applying the key strategies demonstrated in this interaction on your own:

- Provide objects and activities that stimulate more than one sense.
- Use objects that are normally found in the home and classroom, natural objects found outside, and toys.
- Include art activities that allow children to get messy.

When you are finished, reflect on the following questions:

1 What did you do to promote sensory exploration?

2 How did the toddlers respond? What did the children do that made you think they were responding positively?

3 What was challenging? What were roadblocks to promoting sensory exploration?

4 What could you have done differently to promote sensory exploration?

