

Flashcards


TACTILE

Montessori

This game gives children the opportunity to develop their sense of touch, group together pictures and objects, and expand their vocabulary. The package contains four tactile pieces with smooth, rough, prickly and wolly surfaces and 20 ashcards with pictures of animals and objects which can be grouped by surface texture (or by furry coat or shell).

SKILLS

Play with sense of touch; Recognize surfaces; Classify objects; Expand vocabulary




EXPLORING SURFACES

Pick a moment when the children are especially receptive, show them the game and encourage them to explore the flashcards by themselves. Suggest they pick up the cards with tactile surfaces, observe them carefully and touch them.

Using the Montessori three-period method, present the surfaces to draw their attention to the concepts of *prickly*, *soft*, *rough* or *smooth*. Pick up the card with a prickly surface, hand it to the children, let them touch it then say out loud, "What can you feel? Is it prickly? Yes, it's prickly!". Continue in this way for the other three tactile surfaces.

Later, lay the tactile cards out on the playing surface and ask, "Which one's the prickly surface? Can you give it to me?!" "Which one's the soft surface? Can you give it to me? And so on for the other two cards. Now ask the children to answer: they can either point to the cards, with prompting if necessary, or pick up the requested cards. Give them hints but without telling them the answer. In the third step, to reinforce learning, pick up the cards, let the children touch them and ask, "What's it like?" If the children were interested and enthusiastic during the previous stages, they will have no problem coming up with the right answer, "It's prickly! It's smooth!" If they don't know, give them some clues to aid their recognition, "It's prickly! Point to another card and say, "What's this other one like?"



ASSOCIATE SURFACES AND OBJECTS

Now present the flashcards and use the three-period method to teach the children how to say the names of the objects or animals pictured. For example, select the cards showing prickly objects, extract the hedgehog, show it to the children and say out loud, "Hedgehog, it's a hedgehog!" Let the children observe each of the cards in the group and ask them to say the names of each object. Start the three-period method by asking the children to give you a card, "Which one's the hedgehog?" then pick up a card and ask, "What's this called?"

Now do the same with the other groups of cards, presenting each of the subjects.

In the final step, encourage the children to associate the subjects to the surface and matching tactile card, by saying, "The hedgehog is prickly! Can you see its spikes?"; "What about the brush? "Is it prickly?"; "And the cactus?" Repeat these steps for each group of cards.

MINI TACTILE LOTTO

Learning can be reinforced by organising a fun sorting game or mini-lotto with 2-4 players in which you ask the children to group each tactile card with its matching pictures. Give each child a tactile card and place all the other picture cards in a pile, face down. Taking it in turns and moving clockwise around the group, each player picks up a card and shows it to the others. If the card has the same surface as their own tactile card, they win the card and can place them together. The first person to collect all five matching cards and place them under their tactile card wins. The game can be made simpler by referring to the coloured edges of the tactile cards and on the back of the picture card as a back up.

