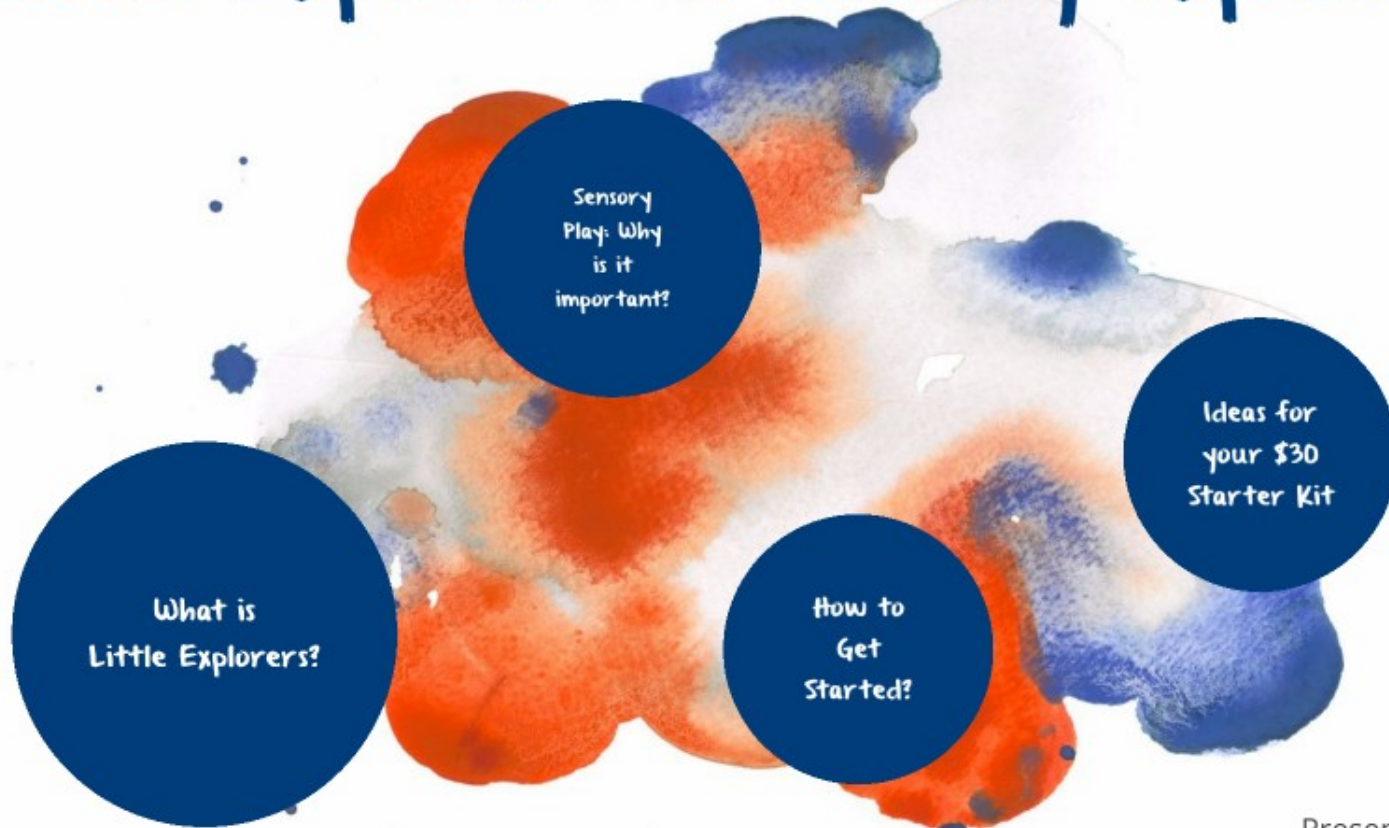


Little Explorers: A Sensory Explosion!



Presented by:
Tina Rossow & Rosemary Retford

What is Little Explorers?



The
Details

The Details

A monthly hour long free play designed to help develop gross motor skills and early literacy

6-8 stations that provide sensory stimulation that facilitates exploration and naturally encourages children to use scientific processes while they play, create, investigate, and explore.

We also offer a Baby-Centered play area with age appropriate baby toys and activities.

Storytime
at CIDL

The Pictures
Say it All...

Storytime at CIDL

- **Baby Storytime (ages 0-walking)**
- **Little Gigglers (ages walking-2 years)**
- **Wee Wigglers (ages 2-3 years)**
- **Preschool (ages 3-5 years)**
- **Pajama Storytime (ages 0-5)**

All of our storytimes (with the exception of Baby Storytime) offer a storytime, craft, and sensory play.

**This is where Little Explorers
was born!**



The Pictures Say It All... I am Learning...

- Language Skills
- Fine Motor Skills
- How to Socialize
- Problem Solving
- Memorization
- How to Be Calm

**BUT I AM ALSO
PLAYING!**



The background of the slide is a watercolor painting. On the right side, there is a profile of a child's face, rendered in soft, blended colors of blue, orange, and white. The overall style is artistic and gentle.

Sensory Play: Why is it important?

Providing opportunities for children to actively use their senses as they explore their world through 'sensory play' is crucial to brain development - it helps to build nerve connections in the brain's pathways.

This leads to a child's ability to complete more complex learning tasks and supports cognitive growth, language development, gross motor skills, social interaction and problem solving skills.

The
Senses

What is
happening?

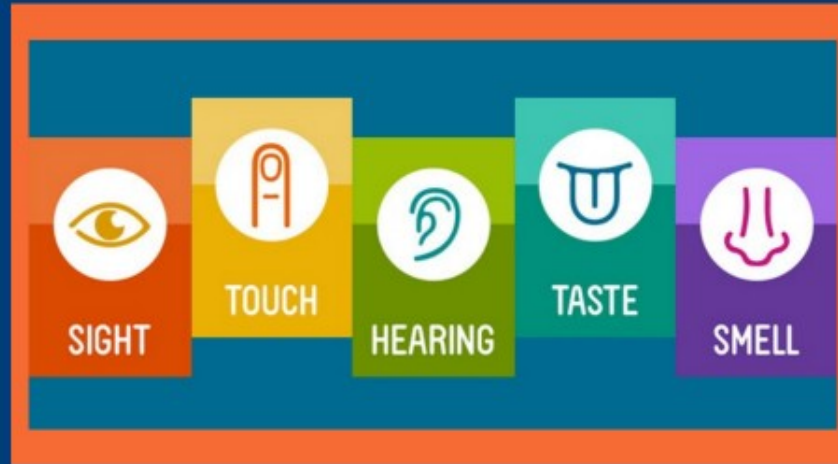
The Senses



The 5 We Know

The Ones We Forget?

The 5 We Know



The Ones We Forget?

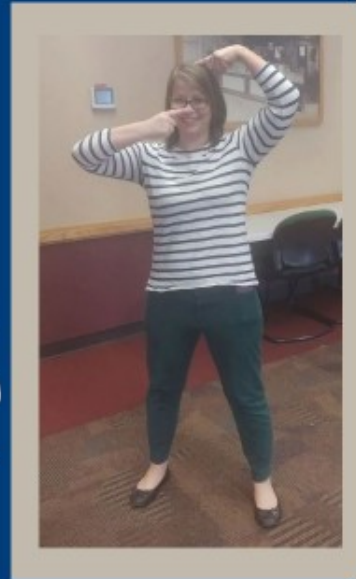


Body
Awareness

Balance

Body Awareness

Body Awareness or Proprioception is the feedback our brains receive from stretch receptors in our muscles and pressure receptors in joints, which enable us to gain a sense where our bodies are in space.



Balance

Balance or Vestibulation is the stimulation of the vestibular system of the inner ear to tell us our body position in relation to gravity.



What is happening?



Cognitive
Development

Motor Skills &
Problem
Solving

Social Interaction
& Imaginative Play

Cognitive Development



Builds nerve connections in the brain's pathways, which lead to the child's ability to complete more complex learning tasks.

Supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills, and social interaction.

Aids in developing and enhancing memory

Motor Skills & Problem Solving

Children learn sensory attributes (hot, cold, sticky, dry, smooth, and rough). By working with these materials children are learning classification and sorting skills

Math skills are learned by such activities as: comparing who has the biggest pile of sand or how many cups of rice it takes to fill up a container.

As children play in the sensory table they are enhancing their sense of touch which in turn leads to developing their fine-motor muscles.

Problem solving techniques such as how to retrieve a small car stuck in a paper towel tube, or what materials to use to build a ramp from one end of the sensory table to the other are practiced.

Social Interaction & Imaginitave Play

Sand and water tables offer many opportunities for creative art and imaginary play.

Language and literacy skills are used constantly as children talk with one another and use descriptive words about what they are doing

Sensory play is great for calming an anxious or frustrated child



How to Get Started?



Supplies &
Requirements

Building
Support

Our Favorite
Things

Supplies & Requirements

For \$30 you can build a starter kit from the Dollar Store!

- 6 bins
- 2 bags of cotton balls
- 2 bags of dry beans
- 1 bag of pasta
- 1 bag of creepy crawlies
- 1 bag of lizards / frogs
- 2 sets of 3 rubber ducks
- 1 set of play kitchen tools
- 1 set of tongs
- 1 box of baking soda
- 1 bag of decorative rocks
- 1 bag of decorative sand
- 1 bag of decorative pebbles
- 1 set of coffee scoops
- 1 set of 3 toothbrushes
- 1 container of oatmeal
- 1 bottle of vinegar
- 1 set of funnels
- 2 cans of shaving cream

Requires a space where children and be loud and get messy

Sensory tubs or storage containers

Tarps are a PLUS!

Building Support

- Talk to your boss. Show them the VALUE in Sensory Play.
- Talk to your co-workers in your department. Ask them how they would feel implementing sensory play.
- START SLOW. START SMALL.
- The best way to implement a new program or a new aspect into regular storytimes, is to JUST DO IT!
- Don't let the "mess" deter you! It can always be cleaned up!

Our Favorite Things



Not Pictured:

- Instant potatoes
- Play-Doh
- Jello
- Ice cubes
- Water & dishsoap
- Easter grass
- Hamster shavings
- Straw
- Fake leaves
- Fake Flowers
- Chickpeas
- Lentils
- Feathers
- Magnets
- Foam Letters



Ideas for your \$30 Starter Kit

1. Rocks, sand, and creepy crawlers.
2. Dry oatmeal and creepy crawlers.
3. Beans, toy kitchen utensils, and or measuring cups.
4. Cotton balls and rubber ducks.
5. Dry pasta and measuring cups.
6. Rice and funnels.
7. Baking soda and vinegar.
8. Shaving cream and their hands!
9. Tooth brushes, play food, and soapy water.
10. Cooked pasta, kitchen utensils, and measuring cups.

The opportunities for sensory play are ENDLESS! You can also add any small plastic toys really to these sensory bins. I could go on for hours on sensory activities.

*Funnels & measuring cups can be used in anything.