

Tactile Fabric Boxes #1

Materials:

- A box without a lid containing 8 squares of fabric that are the same color and are natural fabrics:
 - (2) wool
 - (2) silk
 - (2) linen
 - (2) cotton
- Floor rug

General Presentation - Introduction:

1. Invite the child or group of children.
2. Carry a floor rug in the way shown before over to an empty place on the floor. Roll the rug out.
3. Go over to where the Fabric Box is kept.
4. The teacher should name the material for the child, "Fabric Box".
5. The teacher should demonstrate how to carry the box with two hands (thumbs on top and fingers underneath the box).
6. Invite the child to carry the box over to the rug.
7. Place the box at the top left hand corner of the rug.
8. Pick-up the first square of fabric and feel the surface all over with both hands. Place it next to the right hand side of the box
9. Pick-up the next square of fabric and place it underneath the first square of fabric.
10. Feel both squares of fabric and make the determination if they are the same. If they are a match, leave the squares as they are. If they are different, pick-up and place the second fabric square to the right of the first fabric square.
11. Continue Steps #8, #9 and #10 until all the fabric squares have been matched.
12. Admire your work.

13. Return the fabric squares to the box starting with the first square on the left and proceed to the last one on the right.
14. Return the box to the shelf where it belongs.
15. Roll your rug as you have been shown and return it to its place.

Variation #1 - Three Period Lessons (Naming):

Follow the General Presentation through Step #11. Teach the names of the fabrics giving Three Period Lessons.

Variation #2 - Memory:

Follow the General Presentation through Step #7. Remove each fabric square and place them (mixed order) in a horizontal line next to the right side of the box (left to right). Then, roll out a second rug some distance away from the first one. Pick-up the first fabric square next to the box and take it to the second rug and start another horizontal line (left to right). Go back to the first rug and find the fabric match and take that square over to the second rug and place it underneath the first fabric square. Continue until all the fabric squares have been matched on the second rug.

Variation #3 - Blindfolded:

Follow the General Presentation through Step #7. Have the child put on a blindfold and continue the activity.

Variation #4 - Classroom Match:

Follow the General Presentation through Step #7. Have the child pick a square of fabric and take it to try and match it to an article of clothing another child is wearing.

Variation #5 - Natural Form Match:

Follow the General Presentation through Step #7. Set-up a tray that contains a cotton ball, sheepskin, flax and silk thread. Have the child match the fabric squares to its natural form.

Variation #6 - Picture Match:

Follow the General Presentation through Step #7. Set a tray-up that contains pictures of a cotton plant, flax, lamb and a silkworm. Have the child match the fabric squares to a picture of its natural form.

Variation #7 - Grading:

Follow the General Presentation through Step #11. Touch each fabric square in turn and form a graded horizontal line running from left to right underneath the matched pairs, coarse to fine.

Variation #8 - Mystery Bag:

Follow the General Presentation through Step #11. The teacher should place one square of each type of fabric in a cloth bag. The first exercise would be where the child would try to find a specific fabric. The second exercise is where the child finds a specific fabric and to give its name.

Points of Interest:

1. The different weights of the fabrics (heavy and light)
2. The different weaves of the fabrics (coarse and fine)

Control of Error:

1. When finished a fabric square is left without a match

Aims:

Tactile discrimination, grading weight and weave, order, etc.

Age:

2 ½ and up

Language:

Wool, linen, cotton, silk, heavy, light, coarse, fine, etc.