

## Materials That Appeal to Children's Senses

### Aromatic materials and experiences<sup>6</sup>

- Large wooden balls and boxes
- Wool, felt, and leather balls
- Sturdy rubber balls and teething rings
- Tennis balls
- Sturdily constructed small cloth bags filled with common household spices
- Wicker baskets and woven mats
- Bread dough, play dough, and clay
- Shaving cream
- Newspaper
- Flowering plants (nontoxic)
- Outdoor play where children can smell grass, dirt, leaves, bark, flowers, rain
- Smells of food being prepared and cooked
- A variety of foods to eat and smell
- Empty spice bottles (cinnamon, garlic, cloves)

### Sound-producing materials and experiences

- Toy rattles, dried gourds
- Firmly sealed film cans or tins containing beans, rice, pea gravel, water
- Rain sticks
- Castanets
- Bells
- Xylophones, metallophones
- Pan lids

- Cookie tins
- Metal juice-can lids, metal and wooden spoons and bowls
- Crinkly paper
- Wind chimes, ticking clocks, chiming clocks, music boxes
- Musical recordings
- Singing
- Outdoor play and sounds
- Banners, streamers that flap in the breeze
- Sound of rain on the roof and windows
- Jumping and rolling in piles of dry leaves

### Materials to touch, taste, and look at

#### Objects from nature

- Pine cones (closed "petals")
- Rocks
- Sturdy shells
- Sticks and twigs
- Dried gourds
- Big feathers
- Pumice stone
- Fresh avocado pits
- Natural sponge
- Pieces of loofah
- Lemons, apples
- Edible flowers

<sup>6</sup>Check with families regarding children's allergies to foods, scents, and fabrics.

### Materials That Appeal to Children's Senses (cont.)

#### *Objects made from natural materials*

- Marble "eggs"
- Small baskets
- Bottle corks
- Small raffia mats
- Natural-bristle brushes with wooden handles (for nails, teeth, shaving, shoes, house painting, cosmetics)
- Prisms
- Stained-glass windows

#### *Wooden objects*

- Small boxes
- Small drum on wooden frame
- Rattles
- Castanets
- Clothespins (peg or pincer grip type)
- Large, strung, colored beads
- Inch cubes
- Spools
- Spoons, spatulas
- Egg cups
- Small bowls

#### *Metal objects*

- Measuring spoons
- Spoons
- Small whisks
- Keys on a chain or ring
- Small tins
- Small pot-pie tins
- Lemon squeezer
- Small funnels

- Brass curtain rings
- Garlic press
- Whistle
- Slip-on bangle bracelets
- Bottle brush
- Small metal mirrors
- Key rings linked together
- Large bells, attached to wraparound band (in musical instrument catalogs)
- Tea strainers
- Lengths of chain
- Bicycle bell
- Tea infuser
- Aluminum foil

#### *Objects of leather, cloth, rubber, fur*

- Leather purse
- Small leather bag or key case with zipper
- Leather eyeglass case
- High-bouncer balls
- Lengths of rubber tubing
- Bath/drain plugs with chains
- Velvet powder puffs
- Fur ball
- Pieces of felt in assorted colors, sizes, shapes
- Small rag dolls
- Small teddy bears
- Balls of yarn
- Potholders
- Bandanas

## Materials That Appeal to Children's Senses (cont.)

### *Objects of leather, cloth, rubber, fur (cont.)*

- Silk scarves
- Short lengths of blanket satin, lace
- Tennis balls
- Golf balls

### *Paper/cardboard items*

- Small notebooks or note pads
- Wax paper
- Small boxes
- Paper towel/cardboard tubes
- Board books
- Post cards
- Foil paper
- Cardboard boxes