

Sensory Inspiration

Use the senses to engage with the outdoors and stimulate language and imagination

5-9

Speaking and Listening



Background

In preparation for these activities, discuss how humans use their different senses – do we rely upon some senses more than others?

How does this differ from other species? e.g. Bats use echolocation which relies upon hearing. Eagles have excellent eyesight and badgers depend upon their sense of smell.

Using the senses outdoors is a great context for a variety of **literacy** activities from: building vocabulary; creative writing; poetry; persuasive writing or speaking and listening tasks. It can also be a stimulus for **expressive arts** or even the creation of a **sensory garden/sensory trail** around the grounds.

Equipment

- Cut up paint sample cards
- Egg boxes
- Plastic pots

Activity

1. Sight – Rainbow chips

Prepare a range of different coloured tokens (paint sample cards work well.)

Provide each child with a different coloured token and challenge them to find a match in nature. **Evaluate** which colours were easiest/hardest to match and why.

2. Touch – Touchy feely egg boxes

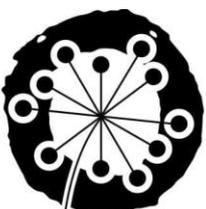
Provide small groups of children with an egg box and challenge them to find 6 materials that all feel different to place in each compartment. Invite the groups to share their **adjectives** for the feelings. Challenge the children to organise their materials whilst blindfolded!

3. Hearing – A handful of sounds

Children sit quietly outside with one hand open. Each time they hear a sound they can close one finger over their palm hence capturing the sound there. Invite children to release a sound by lifting a finger and **describing** what they heard.

4. Smell – Perfume creation

Provide small groups of children with a pot of water and a stick and challenge them to create a perfume. They can give the perfume an imaginative name and even **create** an advert to describe its unique fragrance!



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