

Activity Ideas for the TTS Find the Match

Sensory Beanbags 20pk (EY07515)



The tactile beanbag collection is perfect for sensory exploration and skill development. The beanbags feature a variety of textures, patterns and colours suitable for a range of activities. Below are some suggested ideas for ways of using them. We hope you enjoy them.



Patterns and Sequences

Make and explore patterns and sequences. Copying, extending and creating patterns and sequences of their own equips children with early observational skills and understanding of mathematical patterns in the world around them. Can they find the red square with the white spots? Can they make a repeating pattern? Make different designs using the beanbags. Can they make the design symmetrical?

Sorting and Counting

Children may enjoy sorting the beanbags into type, and colour sets. Can they identify the different ways in which they can be sorted? Extend the children's knowledge by encouraging them to think beyond the obvious. Count the beanbags, pair the beanbags up and count in twos, use the beanbags for showing simple addition or subtraction stories.

Constructing and Balancing

Balance the beanbags to build towers and other structures. How high can the children stack them? Can the children count them to find out? Balance the beanbags on their heads, backs and feet and try to walk around with them. You could set up races and games and try new things like crab walking, balancing the beanbag on your stomach.

Imaginative and Symbolic Play

The beauty of using beanbags in play is that they have no predefined purpose so can become whatever the heart desires. The adventures are never-ending, from magical flying carpets to pretty houses in fairyland. To add excitement, why not hide the beanbags for children to discover? What will they become?

Treasure Baskets and Heuristic Play

Use the various beanbags to create interesting and engaging treasure baskets, encouraging heuristic play. Give children time to explore the different patterns on the beanbags, form their own ideas, and experiment with combining them in different ways. Why not try placing them in different baskets and containers for added interest? Investigate the fabrics describing how they look and feel and learn the names of common fabrics.

Interaction and Communication

Give children time to explore the beanbags. What do they notice? Are they all the same? If not, what is different? As children observe, they will notice the different patterns, textures, and colours. Encourage them to describe what they can see and feel. Use a range of language and vocabulary such as shiny, patterned, reflective, etc.

Schematic Interests

The beanbags lend themselves perfectly to schematic behaviours. Younger children may enjoy transporting them to different places, carrying them around in various pots, bags, or containers. Others may be fascinated as they manipulate them and order them in various ways.

Sensory Exploration

Create a magical sensory experience by adding the different beanbags to a sensory den where children can explore them with light and colour to stimulate their senses. The patterns may be calming and help to relieve anxiety. Use the beanbags to talk about emotions.

Find the Match

Explore the textures and patterns on the beanbags and match the beanbags to its pair. Can you find the other metallic one or the spotty one? Talk about the colour, texture and pattern. Do any of the patterns remind you of anything? For example, a rainbow, or a black and white cow. Try using them for a tactile lotto or memory game. Try matching the beanbags without looking (you could put them in a feely bag or use blindfolds), feeling to find the matching pairs. Describe the textures using words like soft, rough, smooth, crinkly. You could also make laminated cards with the patterns on (see following sheet) and use these for matching games.

Play Beanbag Games

There are many fun beanbag games. Here are a few you may like to try:

- **Beanbag Toss-** Set up targets (hoops, buckets or even floor spots) Assign point values to each target based on the distance and difficulty. Take turns to throw the beanbags at the targets. Keep a score to add a competitive element. Add a challenge by trying to assign each bean bag to a specific target or create obstacles for the children to navigate around and over before throwing the beanbag.
- **Beanbag Relay Races and Team Games-** Take turns to run to place them in a basket or hoop. Or describe a beanbag and a member of each team run to collect it and put it in their basket.
- **Musical Beanbags-** Play a fun twist on the classic 'musical chairs' game. Place the beanbags in the centre of the circle. Get the children to move around the circle in different ways to the music. When the music stops, they run to the centre to pick up a beanbag and the one without a beanbag sits out. Return the beanbags to the centre of the circle and remove one beanbag to continue the game. Each time a beanbag is removed until only one child is left in the game.
- **Beanbag Skittles-** Stack cups or use plastic bottles to make the skittles. Throw, roll or slide the beanbags across the floor to try to knock them over. Who can knock over the most skittles?

