

Promoting young children's learning through sensory stimulation and play: A parent-child sensory game workshop

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Children like stimulation

- ☺ Children are full of curiosity and active in learning
 - ☺ Children enjoy exploring with their senses to learn new things
 - ☺ Children acquire new knowledge building on their prior experiences and skills
 - ☺ Children love to learn in an accepting, encouraging and supportive environment
- 👍 Encourage children to **learn via their 5 senses**
 - 👍 Choose real life themes and provide children with **interesting learning experiences**
 - 👍 Provide children with opportunities to **explore freely** and **discover knowledge**
 - 👍 **Show respect** and **care** when engaging with children in learning

▶ Curriculum Development Council (2017). [Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide](#). Hong Kong: Education Bureau.

When we interact with children...

- 👍 Encourage children to look, to listen, to smell, to touch
 - 👍 Use a wide range of words to describe different multisensory experiences
 - 👍 Link the multisensory learning experiences to the everyday lives of children
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- ▶ Feuerstein, R., Klein, P. S., & Tannenbaum, A. J. (Eds.). (1991). *Mediated learning experience (MLE): Theoretical, psychosocial and learning implications*. Freund Publishing House.
 - ▶ Hembree-Kigin, T. L., & McNeil, C. B. (2013). *Parent-child interaction therapy*. Springer Science & Business Media.

When we interact with children...

- 👍 Invite children to **predict** or **explain**
- 👍 Avoid providing answers **right the way**
- 👍 **Reflect** and **expand** what children have said
- 👍 **Review** children's prediction and beliefs

- ▶ Feuerstein, R., Klein, P. S., & Tannenbaum, A. J. (Eds.). (1991). *Mediated learning experience (MLE): Theoretical, psychosocial and learning implications*. Freund Publishing House.
- ▶ Hembree-Kigin, T. L., & McNeil, C. B. (2013). *Parent-child interaction therapy*. Springer Science & Business Media.

When we interact with children...

- 👍 Put away the cell phone and **pay full attention**
- 👍 Use **body language** to express love and affection (e.g., smile, nod, clap hands, thumb ups, a pat on the shoulder or arm, a stroke on the back, hold hands, hug)
- 👍 **Praise** children for their active exploration and creative thinking

- ▶ Feuerstein, R., Klein, P. S., & Tannenbaum, A. J. (Eds.). (1991). *Mediated learning experience (MLE): Theoretical, psychosocial and learning implications*. Freund Publishing House.
- ▶ Hembree-Kigin, T. L., & McNeil, C. B. (2013). *Parent-child interaction therapy*. Springer Science & Business Media.

Using multisensory stimulation to support children's learning: **Sound bottles**

👂 Materials

- A clean and clear bottle; fillings (e.g., buttons, beads, small bells, beans, sand, small stones, and anything that produce sounds when moved)

👂 Procedures

- Use a funnel to move different fillings into the bottle; put the cap on.



Sound bottle games

- 👂 Ask children to shake the sound bottle when they hear the suffix “ful,” which means “full of”
- 👂 It was a **beautiful** day! Kitty broke her fast with a **bowlful** of cereal and a **spoonful** of honey. She was always **grateful** for having **plentiful** food to eat, as she knows many people in the rest of the world do not have this luxury! She picked up her backpack and an **armful** of books, books that she is about to donate to a charity. She loves her books—she really does. But, what she loves even more is that other children can read and reread her books! She decided to become a **useful** and **helpful** person to the community. She does not have to do great things—she does not have to be a superwoman. She just wanted to do small things, small things that are good to others.

Using multisensory stimulation to support children's learning: **Glitter bottles**

👁️ Materials

- A clean and clear bottle, super glue^{*}, glitter[^], sprinkles[^], glue[^], edible colorings[^] (water soluble)

👁️ Procedures:

- Colored water: Use a container to hold the water. Add edible colorings to it and stir.
- Add the colored water to fill the bottle to its half. Add glitter and sprinkles, and add additional colored water so that the bottle becomes almost full. Shake the bottle to move the glitter and sprinkles around. If children want to make the glitter and sprinkles move more slowly, add glue until they are happy with the effect. Wipe clean the opening and seal the bottle with super glue.



* Super glue is used to seal the bottle, so that the liquid would not leak out. Tapes can also be used to seal the bottle.

[^] Super glue, glitter, sprinkles, and glue can be bought in stationery stores. Edible colorings can be bought in baking stores.

Glitter bottle games

- 👁️ Glitter bottles can be used to calm children's emotions.
- 👁️ Parents can tell their children: "We are now looking at this glitter bottle, looking at how the glitter and sprinkles move. Sometimes, when we feel sad, angry, or worried, our mind is like this shaken glitter bottle, clouded by all the intense emotions. But, we can say STOP and CALM DOWN to ourselves, and look at how the glitter and sprinkles move, sinking into the bottom, sinking into the bottom, just like our mind can calm down if we slow down and focus on our inner self. Yes, look at how the glitter and sprinkles sink into the bottom, just like our mind can become peaceful again if we focus."
- 👁️ Parents can calm their children's emotions every day using the glitter bottle. Moreover, when children are upset, parents can also try to calm children down by asking them to look at the glitter bottle.

Providing children with opportunities to discover knowledge: **Magnet bottles**

✦ Materials





- A clean and clear bottle, metal fillings (e.g., colorful wires, paper clips), non-metal fillings (e.g., plastic straw pieces), clear round tube, a magnet stick (composed of a wooden stick and a magnet), small plastic bits, super glue

✦ Procedures:

- Magnet bottle: Use super glue to stick the clear tube to the center of the bottle cap inside. Use a funnel to move different fillings into the bottle. Put the cap on.
- Magnet stick: Stick the magnet to the wooden stick



Magnet bottle game

- ✦ Turn the magnet bottle upside down. Put the magnetic stick on the bottle surface, move and drag the fillings into the clear tube attached to the cap.
- ✦ Parents may create metal fillings of different shapes, colours, etc. as follow:
 - shape : circle , triangle , square , or other shapes
 - color : red 、 blue 、 green
 - animal : fish 
 - number : 1 、 2 、 3
 - alphabet : A 、 B 、 C

Using multisensory stimulation to support children's learning: **Scent bottles**

🌸 Materials

- A clean and clear bottle, natural scented materials (e.g., coffee beans, cinnamon, lavender)

🌸 Procedures

- Use a funnel to move different fillings into the bottle, make your own scent and be a little fragrant expert!



Scent bottle games

- 🌸 The parent asks the child a few questions, through which they will compose a story together:
 - Who: who is the main character in the story?
 - What: what happened? (have to be related to the scent)
 - Whom: whom did the main character meet?
 - Why: why it happened?
 - How: how did it go? what was the final outcome?
- 🌸 Use colorful wires to make figures of the characters.

Using multisensory stimulation to provide joyful learning experience: **Water and oil bottles**

⚡ Materials

- A clean and clear bottle, super glue^{*}, glitter[^], edible colorings (water soluble)[^], edible colorings (oil soluble)[^], oil^{*} (e.g., baby oil)

⚡ Procedures:

- Colored water: Use a container to hold the water. Add edible colorings (water soluble) to it and stir.
- Colored oil: Use a container to hold the water. Add edible colorings (oil soluble) to it and stir.
- Use a funnel to add the colored water to fill the bottle to its half, then add the colored oil to the bottle. Add glitter for decoration. Wipe clean the opening and seal the bottle with super glue.

* Super glue is used to seal the bottle, so that the liquid would not leak out. Tapes can also be used to seal the bottle. Oil can be baby oil or massage oil. Edible oil is not suitable, as it will clot at room temperatures.

[^] Super glue and glitter can be bought in stationery stores. Edible colorings can be bought in baking stores. Baby oil or massage oil can be bought in dispensaries.



Water and oil bottle games

- 🔦 Level 1: Put aside the grey cards. The parent shuffles the colored cards and place them face down. The parent draws one card at a time and says TURN. If the card matches the corresponding role (i.e., the father draws a father card; the mother draws a mother card), the child needs to turn the water and oil bottle upside down. If the card does not match the corresponding role (i.e., the father draws a mother card; the mother draws a son card), the child does nothing.

Father



Mother



Son



Daughter



Father



Mother



Son



Father



Daughter



Father



Daughter



Son



Mother



Daughter



Father



Mother



Water and oil bottle games

- Level 2: Mix both the grey and the colored cards. The parent shuffles all cards and place them face down. The rules for the colored cards remain the same. But, the rules for the grey cards are the opposite of those for the colored cards: If the grey card matches the corresponding role (i.e., the father draws a father card; the mother draws a mother card), the child does nothing. If the grey card does not match the corresponding role (i.e., the father draws a mother card; the mother draws a son card), the child needs to turn the bottle upside down.



Father



Father



Son



Daughter



Father



Mother



Daughter



Son



Son



Daughter



Father



Mother



Videos on the making of sensory bottles and different sensory games



【親子小手工】親子感官瓶製作

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<https://bit.ly/4h9fwFv>



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Conclusion and Questions