

Feely Finger Texture Trays

Finger painting helps children become aware of their sense of touch. Today, children will use shaving cream to paint different textures, adding a new dimension to the traditional activity. Texture is an important concept both in art and in life, so encourage your child to describe the different textures and connect them to other objects they have felt.

In The Wonder Cabinet:

Today, *The Wonder Cabinet* is providing varied textured trays to reinforce a child's sense of touch. Several different textured trays are available at each art table. Children and parents are encouraged to describe the textures, make comparisons among them, and connect them to textures at home or outside.

Vocabulary to describe and understand texture is important both to artistic expression and to academic development. Artists use texture to create form and dimension in flat media, like drawing and painting. Categorizing, classifying, and making connections among what one sees, feels, and knows is necessary for elementary math, science, and reading development.

At Home:

You can encourage your child to experiment with different textures by providing a variety of materials at home. If you are not planning to reuse the materials, your child can use finger paints or shaving cream tinted with food coloring to paint the different textures. You and your child can attach several different textures to construction paper, poster board, a vinyl tablecloth, or an old sheet to make a textured painting surface.

Suggested materials:

- Fabric scraps
- Wallpaper samples
- Aluminum foil
- Tiles
- Styrofoam
- Gauze
- Felt
- Sandpaper
- Wood scraps