

# Sensory Dig

In this open-ended activity, children are invited to use their senses to explore texture, color, shape, etc. as they dig in sensory bins for fossils and other treasures. Sensory activities are important for young artists in that they provide rich, hand-on experiences for children to connect emotionally and physically with how something feels, smells, sounds, and looks.

## **In *The Wonder Cabinet*:**

Today, *The Wonder Cabinet* is providing a sensory experience for children to use their senses to explore a mixture of texture rich materials. This and similar sensory experiences help children develop artistic skills such as observation, coordination and imagination.

Exploration tools, such as scoopers, tongs, tubes, etc. are available as an extension when children have moved beyond exploring the sensory mixture alone. Manipulating these tools give children valuable practice with developing their fine muscles as well as their hand-eye coordination.

Furthermore, filling and dumping items, such as cups, with the sensory mixture, as well as putting the mixture through the tubes helps children learn about volume and space.

## **At Home:**

Sensory bins are a great opportunity for children to explore various concepts and are easy to create. Simply fill a container with different materials such as beans, rice, seeds, rocks, etc. You can also mix in objects to highlight a particular concept, such as different shaped blocks, or alphabet letters. Another fun idea is to create a theme with your sensory bin. For example, use tiny pots, rakes and shovels for children to explore a mixture of seeds, leaves, and flowers in a sensory bin. The possibilities are endless!

## **Suggested materials:**

- Sand
- Dried pasta shells
- Beans & grains
- Seeds
- Rice
- Popcorn kernels
- Oatmeal
- Shells
- River rocks