



## Exploring Senses Learning Centers

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### Main Points/Rationale

Students will work in cooperative groups as they explore their five senses. Several activities and ideas can be done at each learning center.

### Objectives

1. Students will be able to participate in multiple activities at learning centers allowing them to use their senses in a variety of ways.
2. Depending upon the activity and learning center, students will be able to draw, organize, taste and describe during this lesson.

### Standards

PA Standards

1.1 Reading Independently; 1.5 Quality of Writing; 1.6 Speaking and Listening; 3.2 Inquiry and Design; 3.3 Biological Sciences; 10.1 Concepts of Health

NJCCCS

2.1 Wellness; 3.2 Writing; 3.3 Speaking; 5.1 Scientific Processes; 5.3 Mathematical Applications; 5.5 Life Science

### Materials & Equipment (depends on learning centers chosen)

- Magazines, calendars, glue, scissors, crayons, drawing paper, paper towel or toilet paper rolls, colored cellophane, construction paper, leaves, film canisters, foods to sample, seashells, etc.

### Introduction

- There are a number of ways in which your students can explore the world around them using their senses. Review the various ideas below and develop those that meet the needs of your classroom and students.

### Learning Center One - Art Center

- For this first activity, place magazines or images of animals, along with scissors and glue at the art center. Students will cut out pictures from magazines showing animals using their five senses. They should separate out the pictures so they can be collected to be displayed on a bulletin board.
- Provide students with drawing paper and crayons. They should draw animals that have a good sense of hearing. In their pictures, they should also include why their animal needs a good sense of hearing.

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- Create colored glasses using paper towel or toilet paper towel rolls and colored cellophane. Students should try to draw what they see while looking through them.

### Learning Center Two - Writing Center

- Students will complete frame sentences that will allow them to describe how they use their five senses. For example, "I hear with my \_\_\_\_\_." Students should then write two or three simple sentences, with help, about the animal they observed during their field trip to the Zoo.
- Provide the students with construction paper and writing materials. The students should trace their footprint to create a barefoot book. They will draw and write down what it feels like to touch different things with their bare feet. For example, they could draw a picture of themselves walking in the grass and write "it feels soft." To facilitate this activity, you could create a template book of four pages with frame sentences for the students.

### Learning Center Three - Mathematics Center

- Provide the students with a number of objects that differ by color, shape, texture, size, etc. They should sort the objects into predetermined categories.
- Provide students with different kinds of seashells to categorize. They can be the same kind but in different sizes and colors, or they can be completely different types of shells.

### Learning Center Four - Science Center

- Provide students with several different leaves for them to study. Students should describe their leaf by using only the sense of sight. For example, they could describe a leaf as having three, four, or five points on it. The veins may be visible. The leaf may be dark green, red or yellow. Some have smooth edges, while others have jagged edges.
- Set up on the science-learning center several sealed containers (that are not transparent) holding different items. Students will shake the containers, one at a time, and describe the sounds they hear. They should predict what's inside and then open the containers to see if they were correct.
- After checking about food allergies, set up a station that include foods that taste bitter, sweet, sour and salty. Students should take turns tasting the different foods and describing the differences between them.
- Provide students with several different kinds of leaves for them to use for leaf rubbings.

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### Closing

- After your students have completed their tasks, close the lesson with a discussion based upon the following questions:
  - Why do we need our senses?
  - What can we do with our senses?
  - What part of the body do we use to see? How could you tell what an object was if you couldn't see it?
  - How do people communicate or talk with each other? How do animals communicate? What part of the body do you use to hear? What about animals? Can we always see an animal's ears? Do all animals have ears? Could you communicate if you couldn't hear? How?
  - How does the sense of touch help us learn about the world around us? What do a lot of animals use to help them touch?
  - Why is smell important? How can the sense of smell warn us of dangers?
  - How does taste help us select food?

### References

- Southwest Educational Development Laboratory  
<http://www.sedl.org/scimath/pasopartners/senses/overview.html>
- <http://123child.com>