

Sensory Bottles

Sensory bottles are clear, plastic bottles filled with a variety of liquid and solid materials that provide opportunities for observation and experimentation. These bottles are inexpensive, simple to make, and appeal to infants through school-age children. Toddlers are especially captivated by sensory bottles.

Tips for Making and Using Sensory Bottles

- Collect clear plastic water or drink bottles.
- Wash bottles and remove all labels.
- Fill bottles with a variety of solid and liquid materials.
- Securely glue the bottle caps onto the bottles.
- Cover the caps with a strong tape.
- Make collections of bottles available to toddlers on shelves or in a basket or other container.
- Guide toddlers in safe use of the bottles with comments such as, "Tamisha, try rolling the bottle instead of throwing it." Redirect toddlers to throw safe objects such as socks into a plastic basket.
- Observe toddlers as they experiment with the bottles. Invite them to experiment with the bottles with comments such as, "Margaret, when you shake the bottle the stars move."
- Sanitize bottles after toddlers play with them.
- Be creative as you experiment with making different sensory bottles.

Shiny Bottle

- Fill a bottle with shiny objects such as sequins, beads and satin ribbon, leaving enough space so that objects will move when toddlers shake or roll the bottle.
- Glue on the bottle cap and cover the cap with strong tape.

Confetti Bottle

- Put several spoonfuls of confetti in the bottle.
- Add water and food coloring.
- Glue on the bottle cap and cover the cap with strong tape.

Creepy Crawly Bottle

- Pour 1/3 cup of clear corn syrup in the bottle.
- Add red and yellow food coloring.
- Drop in several plastic spiders and/or fishing worms.
- Glue on the bottle cap and cover the cap with strong tape.

Wave Bottle

- Fill bottle 2/3 full with water.
- Add several drops of food coloring to the water.
- Fill the bottle to the top with vegetable oil or mineral oil.
- Glue on the bottle cap and cover the cap with strong tape.

Crayon Shavings Bottle

- Make crayon shavings with a crayon sharpener or grater.
- Put several tablespoons of crayon shavings in the bottle.
- Fill the bottle to the top with water.
- Glue on the bottle cap and cover the cap with strong tape.

Confetti and Crayon Shavings Bottle

- Make crayon shavings with a crayon sharpener or grater.

- Put confetti and crayon shavings in the bottle.
- Fill the bottle to the top with colored water.
- Glue on the bottle cap and cover the cap with strong tape.

Star Bottles

- Add color hair-setting gel to bottle, leaving about 2" of air space.
- Add a small package of confetti star shapes in the bottle and shake to combine with gel.
- Glue on the bottle cap and cover the cap with strong tape.

Safety Note: *Check the bottles each day to make sure the bottle cap is securely glued and taped on the bottle.*