**Sensational Senses**

**Activity:** Children will use their five senses to explore a variety of items.

**Objective**
Children will identify the five senses and determine how they can be used to gain information about various items.

**Targeted Standards**

**VI. Scientific Inquiry**

**VI.A.1.** Uses senses to explore and understand their social and physical environment

- **Benchmark a.** Identifies each of the five senses and their relationship to each of the sense organs
- **Benchmark b.** Begins to identify and make observations about what can be learned about the world using each of the five senses

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**Materials Needed**

- *My Five Senses,* by Aliki
- A variety of items that may be explored using one or more of the five senses (i.e., lemon wedges, apple slices, cinnamon sticks, marbles, pinecones, pretzel sticks, crayons, kaleidoscope, color paddles, castanets, whistle, maracas, candy, silk, felt, burlap, leather, sea shell, rock, flower blossom, tea bag, sugar, mint leaves, bubble wrap, etc.)
- Chart paper or poster board (for graph)
- Colored markers (for illustrating graph)
- Small paper plates and napkins
- Tray (for holding items)
- White paper and crayons (to illustrate)

**Scaffolding**

After reminding children that only food should be tasted, encourage them to use all their other senses to explore the items. Ask questions such as: “How does it feel?” “Is it smooth or textured?” “Is there a way you can hear this (i.e., the crunch of an apple or cracker)?” “What kind of noise does it make?” “What can you tell about this by looking at it?”

**Extensions**

- Brainstorm lists of things you can see, smell, hear, taste, and touch.

- Encourage children to explore books about all 5 senses such as:
  - *The Listening Walk,* by Paul Showers
  - *Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! A Sonic Adventure,* by Wynton Marsalis
  - *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?,* by Bill Martin Jr.
  - *Cold, Crunchy, Colorful: Using Our Senses,* by Jane Brockett
  - *Nosy Rosie,* by Holly Keller

**Checking for Understanding**

The children will demonstrate their understanding of the lesson by, using their five senses to investigate a number of items and discussing their findings.
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Procedures

1. Discuss the five senses with the children. What do they know about them? How do they use them? Why are they important?
2. Read, My Five Senses to the and ask them what questions they might have.
3. Invite the children to decide which senses they may use to explore each of the items on the tray. For example, the bumpy skin of a lemon may be felt with hands, the fruit may be smelled with the nose, the yellow skin may be seen with the eyes, and the sour fruit may be tasted with the mouth, but not heard with the ears.
4. Encourage the children to explore each item using their senses. After exploring an item, invite a child to help fill in the graph by printing an “x” or check mark under each organ that was used.
5. Discuss their findings. Were they surprised? What did they learn?
6. The children may want to use paper and crayons to illustrate some of their findings.