

Kids Collab Blog

The Play Makes Sense Story

Play Makes Sense was created by Alice and Abbie - two former teachers, with over ten years' experience between them, leading both the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. They left teaching when they had their own children, but they never lost their passion for play and learning. They are now on a mission to get all children learning through sensory play.

Play Makes Sense creates activity cards to empower parents, teachers, childminders and educators to support children's learning. Each pack of activity cards is bursting with over 40 learning through play ideas. All the activities are quick and simple to set up and meaningful and engaging for children. The activity cards are available from: www.playmakessense.co.uk, or follow along on Instagram [@playmakessenseuk](https://www.instagram.com/playmakessenseuk) for lots of free learning through play tips and tricks.

Sensory Play - The What, Why and How

Let's start with the basics, what is sensory play?

Sensory play is an activity that involves some, or all, of the senses. We have five main senses - sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing - but there are many others too, such as the vestibular sense which helps with balance, or the proprioception sense which supports our awareness of body parts and how we move them.

Why is sensory play the best way to learn?

Learning through sensory play has so many benefits for children. It is amazing because it:

1. Gives children the opportunity to discover, create and learn
2. Supports memory
3. Exposes children to new vocabulary
4. Develops problem solving skills
5. Improves fine and gross motor skills

How can you introduce sensory play into your home or setting?

As teachers and parents, we have witnessed the amazing results of sensory play and we want to share it with you. If you are tempted to have a go at learning through sensory play, either at home or in your setting, take a look at these three activity ideas, taken from our Phase 1 Phonics Activity Cards - they are a great way to get started!

Phase 1 phonics is perfect for preschoolers and children aged 3+. It focuses on the development of phonological awareness, which lays the foundations for future phonics success.

Phase 1 is split into seven aspects:

1. Environmental sounds
2. Instrumental sounds
3. Body percussion
4. Rhythm and rhyme
5. Alliteration
6. Voice sounds
7. Oral blending and segmenting

1. Drum disco - environmental sounds



Invite your child to have a drum disco with you. Give your child a wooden spoon and encourage them to drum on objects loudly, quietly, quickly and slowly.

Time for an extra challenge? Use the wooden spoon to beat a rhythm on an object. Ask your child to copy the rhythm back to you.

So there you have it, three amazing activities to get you started with learning through sensory play. Which activity are you tempted to set up first?

Learning through sensory play is an exciting journey and we would love to empower you to get playing and learning! For more sensory play learning activities, head to our website www.playmakesense.co.uk.