**Description of activity:**
We are going to use either salt or lotion to feel patterns on a tray.

**Materials:**
- Cookie sheet or baking pan (one with edges helps contain the mess)
- Salt or lotion (Rice would also work)
- Colored paper
- Glue or puffy paint
- Saran wrap (optional)

**Instructions:**
Line the bottom of your tray with paper. Use glue or puffy paint to make shapes on the paper. You can also glue pipe cleaners to the paper for a more noticeable tactile input. Let fully dry. (I recommend doing this step the night before because it takes a while to dry).
Cover the paper with salt or dry rice. I also find it is a great sensory experience to use lotion (and it is harder to dump or throw). If using lotion, place saran wrap over your paper.

**Grading:**
- Make dots on your paper for beginning tactile exploration.
- Horizontal lines to follow with finger are great for beginning reading and writing.
- Tracing over letters is a great way to introduce letter formation.
- Matching (have your child feel the shape on the paper and try to match it to shape cards or letter cards).
- You can use marker over the glue for increased visual attention.
- Use communication device to have your child indicate what they are feeling on the paper (such as a circle).
- Have you child count how many dots they feel.

**Target areas:**
Sensory exploration, tactile discrimination, pre-braille skills, pre-handwriting, matching, and independent living skills.

**Video Link:** Click to watch a demonstration of this activity: [https://youtu.be/R4ZdfhYvaU4](https://youtu.be/R4ZdfhYvaU4)