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Activity: Pre-Braille Skills Grab Bag Game

Teaching young children about textures and characteristics of objects is very important to teach all children but it is especially significant to establishing pre-braille skills in children who are blind or low vision. Children who will most likely be braille or tactile learners need to have lots of opportunities to work with their fingers to isolate fine details of different materials. A fun way to teach this is playing the “Pre-braille Skills Grab Bag Game”. Lots of fun for the whole family and an opportunity to get as creative as you want!!!!

Materials: find objects around your home that have different textures

Hard: TV remote control, small picture frame, wood, small plastic plates/cups

Soft: pillow, feathers, cotton balls, fake fur, fluffy pom-poms

Squishy: playdough, plush toys, foam pillow stuffing, packing peanuts

Scratchy: sandpaper, dish scrubber sponge, shower net, torn cardboard

Bumpy: packing peanuts, bubble wrap, beads, textured sink mat, small tiles

Bag: use whatever works best for your game: plastic zip lock, paper, material, etc.

Before you start playing your game, start by following these suggestions:

1. Start by introducing each set of objects – “these are things that are soft”. Show your child all of the soft items you have collected.
2. For each item, talk about how it feels

3. Give your child lot of time to explore the objects in different ways: touch, smell, taste, tap, look. We should always encourage the use of all sensory channels, especially auditory
4. After you have introduced the objects and given time for your child to explore them, mix up all or some of the items and place them in a bag of your choice. Show your child how to reach in, grab and then take out a piece. Help your child name or describe the item
5. All children can play this game regardless of their skill or ability. Use accommodations such as physical and/or communication assistance.
6. Here are some other ideas to make your game more accessible for your child:

Show objects arranged on a tray instead of in a bag

Use only one or two textures at a time

Use only familiar textures or only novel textures

Use themed textures from books, movies, personal experiences

HAVE FUN AND TAKE PICTURES TO SHARE WITH ANCHOR!!!