

Tactile Boards

Materials:

→ (3) wooden rectangular boards showing rough and smooth surfaces in an open container:

The first board is divided into two sandpaper surfaces; one smooth wood and one rough

The second board is divided into 5 rough surface strips and alternating smooth wood

The last board is a graded board with 5 graded rough surface strips (rough to fine) with a smooth wood surface in-between.

Preparation:

The child needs to prepare his/her fingertips before working with the boards. Have the child wash their hands before they begin.

General Presentation - Introduction:

1. Invite the child or group of children.
2. Go over to where the Tactile Boards are kept.
3. The teacher should name the material for the child, "Tactile Boards".
4. The teacher should demonstrate how to carry the first board with two hands (thumbs on top and fingers underneath the box).
5. Invite the child to carry the first board over to the table.
6. Place the first board on the table directly in front of the child with the rough surface on top and the smooth surface touching the top of the table.
7. The teacher should demonstrate stroking the board top to bottom (rough to smooth) using only the fingertips.
8. Say "rough" when your fingers are gently stroking the sandpaper.
9. Say "smooth" when your fingers are gently stroking the board.
10. Return the Tactile Boards to their box where they belong.

Presentation #2 - Second Board:

Follow the first presentation but use the Second Board.

Presentation #3 - Third Board:

Follow the first presentation but use the Third Board. After gently stroking the first sandpaper strip say, “rough”. Every strip thereafter say, “less rough”.

Variation #1 - Matching to Environment:

Invite the child to match the first tablet to a rough item and a smooth item in the classroom. The next exercise would be to remember how either rough or smooth feels and go out in the classroom and find an item that feels the same.

Points of Interest:

1. Different surfaces have different textures

Control of Error:

1. Confusing what is smooth and what is rough

Aims:

Touch discrimination, grading surfaces, order, etc.

Age:

3 and up

Language:

Rough, rougher, smooth, fine, coarse, etc.