

## **Sensory Treasure Basket**

Some children will experience greater and more specific difficulties in making sense of and organizing all the different sensations that they receive from their senses, and how to react to them. A child with Special Educational Needs, whose ability to learn through their senses is affected will need extra help to do this. That is why Sensory Play is so important for them.

### **Treasure baskets – a “sensory snack”**

A treasure basket is an example of a sensory-rich and highly portable resource, making it a perfect “sensory snack.” Within an enabling environment, children can investigate objects, experiment, or be guided with activities. The sensory stimulation and hands-on approach are great for the brain and memory development, gross and fine motor skills, and strength. It can also help to provide distraction and relaxation for individuals experiencing anxiety or stress. They can appeal to children with different learning styles and abilities with no right or wrong ways of playing.

### **Ideas of items to Include:**

- Sponges - varied sizes and shapes
- Wooden rings
- Scarves and ribbons
- Natural objects e.g., fur cones, dried fruits
- Soft brushes
- Metal objects such as chains, a whisk, spoons, sieve, tea strainer
- Bells
- Feathers
- Squares of material – different textures
- Sensory Bottles- plastic bottles filled with glitter/feathers/rice
- Space Blanket
- Squishy/soft balls of assorted sizes
- Double strip of Velcro for them to pull apart
- Egg shakers or mini maracas
- Small mirrors

### **Useful References and Links**

[treasure baskets - Sensory Treasures - Explore - Discover - Learn](#)

- Autism Toolbox: <http://www.autismtoolbox.co.uk/>
- AET: <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/>
- National Autistic Society: <https://www.autism.org.uk/>