

IntelliPics

Sensory Play Games

Introduction

Sensory integration activities may have tremendous benefits for some children in preschool classrooms. Children who do not respond to traditional materials may find something appealing in activities which focus on sensory stimulation. This *IntelliPics* activity was designed for a group of children in one specific classroom; however, it may be enjoyable for children in any classroom.

Materials

- Computer
- IntelliKeys
- *IntelliPics*
- “Sensory Play Games” overlays

Ahead of Time

- Create an *IntelliPics* activity using four sensory activity choices for children. This example includes blowing bubbles, playing with shaving cream, playing with sand, and playing with play dough.
- Take digital pictures related to the choices or use clip art. Copy each picture into *IntelliPics* and add animation.
- A short song about the choice can be recorded for lively auditory stimulus.
- Make several versions of this activity based on different numbers of choices presented. For example, after saving the four choices as “Sensory4,” then delete two of the pictures and save as “Sensory2.” After renaming the new activity, make a new overlay which has this same new name. Continue in the same manner, opening your original “Sensory4” file and saving it as different activities depending on the number and combination of choices. In this way, there is a variety of different choice options for activities and overlays for the children.
- Print the overlays in color and laminate for durability.
- Open the *IntelliPics* activity and place the appropriate overlay on the IntelliKeys.
- Set up the computer center so that there is an area for play materials next to the IntelliKeys.



Introductory Activity

Introduce the play material choices to the children. As a beginning activity, two choices may be desirable. Show the children the materials, such as sand and bubbles, and demonstrate, if needed, what they can do with the materials in these activities.

Computer Activity

Present the IntelliKeys with the overlay to the children. Encourage them to look at the overlay and see how it looks like the object in front of them as well as the picture on the monitor. The children can explore the overlay to find out what happens when they press on a picture.

After children explore the animation and sound which results from the press on the overlay, present the play objects to them. Children will enjoy playing with the chosen object. By associating the picture with the computer sounds, animation, and the real object, children will begin to learn that their communication intent has a meaningful consequence.

Extended Activity

- Use the sensory materials as an art medium. Children can make sand paintings, or they can finger paint with shaving cream.
- Focus on the songs in the activities. Play rhyming games with words from the songs.
- Print two copies of individual pictures from the overlay. Play a matching or concentration game with the pictures. Children will enjoy finding the right match and then playing with the real object.
- Make a book about the sensory materials by printing the overlay pictures and adding a single line of text to each page. Children can look at the book in the reading center. A similar book can be printed and shared with families.
- Assemble sensory integration kits to send home so that families can use them in activities with their children.

Summary

A simple *IntelliPics* activity which focuses on sensory play can capture children's attention and elicit desirable responses. By combining the computer activity with real materials, children can communicate their choices and enjoy the resulting sensory experiences.