

Investigating My World

Playing with a variety of materials will help your child:

- Use his senses to explore the world
- Compare textures, shapes and colors
- Develop a scientific curiosity



Ideas to try with your child:

- Make a feely box with circles of fabric. Include velvet, fur, sandpaper, or denim—as much variety as you can find around the house.
- Sit with your child under a tree and notice nature around you. Ask questions like, “What do you see, smell and hear?” “What does the bark and the grass feel like?” “Can you see an insect or hear a bird?”
- Fill a large plastic container with sand, beans or rice. Give your child cups, spoons, strainers and funnels to explore. You can also bury small toys for him to find.

If your child is struggling:

- If your child doesn't like to touch new things, be patient and encouraging. Offer a variety of things to feel, but don't force him.
- Help your child get outside by turning off the TV or video games. Offer exploring tools such as a bug box or magnify glass.
- Challenge him to find an insect or make a mud pie. Go out and explore with him!

Going further:

- Point out different conditions such as wet, dry, warm and cold. You could set out a glass of water, a dry towel, a warm piece of bread, and an ice cube, and then talk about the differences.
- Help your child make a collage using items you gathered together from a nature walk. Let him glue a pinecone, a leaf, sand, rocks, grass, flowers and other items onto a piece of cardboard. He can add drawings to the collage with markers too!

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children Ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Play with materials of different texture (such as sand, water, leaves) and conditions (such as wet, dry, warm, cold), with adult encouragement and supervision.” *Learning About my World, Ages-3-4 years*, pg. 64.