

Weather – Sensory Bags & Bottles



Weather happens around us every day. But how do toddlers learn about the weather? Transitioning from summer to fall and then to winter can be hard for toddlers, for example, more layers of clothes, wearing shoes more, and can't go outside as often. We can support the transition with fun sensory activities that include touching, watching, cause and effect.

The link below has examples of how to set up for this activity
[Fall Squishy Bags * Parenting Chaos](#)

Materials Needed:

- **Clear, empty gallon-sized Ziploc bags – freezer bags are** thicker plastic and are 'tougher.'
- **Duct tape** – you want to make sure the bags are sealed and secured so they cannot be opened.
- **Dollar Tree goodies!** – hair gel (the big bottle), misc. Items that represent the season or weather you want to create—glitter, confetti, cotton balls, fake leaves, food coloring, paints, etc. Let your imagination go wild!
- **Scissors** – for cutting tape, making items smaller if need be, etc.
- **Don't overcrowd the bag** – this is an opportunity for exploration, using language, fine motor and sometimes less is more.

How to: Add the hair gel first and then add the items to the bag to move and scatter objects around the bag easier. When the bag has everything added, close it, and then use duct tape to cover the opening.



One of my favorite things to do is put the bags on a window/sliding glass door to be interactive all day; the light hits it differently throughout the day. We have added two colors of food coloring to the hair gel, taped to windows, and then let the children squish, mix, create a new color! Yellow and Red – Orange for pumpkins, fall leaves! Red and Blue – Purple for Halloween and sunsets, Blue and Yellow – green for the trees and the grass.

This photo on the right is of a sensory bin – this can be made into a sensory bag very easily. Water beads can be a choking hazard, so using a sealed bag is a great way to explore this activity. You can also use Hair gel, blue food coloring, add cotton balls, or squirt in some shaving cream. Seal the bag, duct tape it closed, and let the exploring go!



Developmentally this activity encourages language development by giving you opportunities to use descriptive language, action words, and silly sounds. Eye/hand coordination and fine motor development are encouraged with pushing items around the bag. You are giving your child an opportunity to continue remembering the activity if you hang up bag(s) where your child can interact with them throughout their day for a few days. Having your child see their work also support self-confidence as it is displayed for all to see and enjoy.

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Remember – when we model, and your child imitates you - it is the beginning of understanding communication. When we imitate them, we tell them their ideas and choices are powerful, which can encourage them to want to do more.

Materials Needed:

- **Clear, empty water bottles** – you can use small child-sized bottles or larger bottles. There are lots of different shapes and sizes. Choose what is best for your family.
- **Glue gun/Superglue** – you want to make sure the bottles are sealed and secured so they cannot be opened.
- **Dollar Tree goodies!** – hair gel (the big bottle), baby oil, misc. Items that represent the season or weather that you want to create. Glitter, glitter blue, confetti, cotton balls, fake leaves, food coloring, paints, etc. Let your imagination go wild!
- **Scissors** – for cutting tape, making items smaller if need be, etc.
- **Don't overcrowd the bottle** – this is an opportunity for exploration, using language, heavy work, and sometimes less is more.



How to: It may be easier to add the items to the bottle first to move them around and scatter materials around. Then add the liquid if you choose to use it. When the bottle has everything added, close it, and then use a glue gun/super glue to secure the lid and prevent little hands from trying to open it.



These bottles also work as a calming down tool – sitting together and turning the bottles slowly to watch all of the items move about the bottle. I have found that some assorted items work great and others make the bottle too crowded and messy. Below are links for a few pages that have a variety of mediums to use. Seeing the finished product can sometimes inspire us to create something that works for your family best.

Developmentally this activity encourages language development by giving you opportunities to use descriptive language, action words, and silly sounds. Eye/hand coordination and heavy work are encouraged to move the bottle around and give your child an opportunity to continue to remember the activity if you have the bottle(s) where your child can interact with them throughout their day for a few days. Having your child see their work also support self-confidence as it is displayed for all to see and enjoy. This activity supports your child's initiating and engagement skills as they can invite you to interact with them, mimicking each other with actions and sounds while expanding their ability to stay engaged in an activity for a more extended period.

[Seasons and Weather Sensory Bottles - Tea in the Wild](#)