

It All Makes Sense



Loughborough campus nursery has always been, and is, increasingly aware of the importance of cognitive neuroscience in babies and children's learning and development.

The neuroscience behind learning involves two key elements, firstly learning is multisensory and secondly learning is social.

It all makes sense

Those five senses we use every single day are the fundamental foundations of every child's development, touch, sight, smell, sound and taste. Having a multi-sensory learning approach to a child's development and creating safe and secure environments for learning provides your child with a rich and deep understanding of the world through play.

'Cognitive neuroscience offers a way of measuring the impact of... how learning can be precisely understood.' (Goswami, 2008, 29).

With this in mind a multisensory approach and creating safe and secure learning environments is considered to be fundamental to the curriculum content here at Loughborough campus nursery.



This photo of a father and his daughter, it encapsulates those senses, the smell of the field, listening to nature's cheeps and tweets, feeling the wind in her hair, seeing her father's facial expressions of excitement as she flies in the sky. This moment combines those senses and social interaction blending together those core values of learning in a simple yet extraordinary way. All it needs now is an ice cream for taste!

Research has shown that a strong early home learning environment is closely linked to the firm foundations of development and attainment for children. A fantastic document to support parents and practitioners is *What to expect, When?*



It all makes sense

Multisensory play is extremely beneficial for any child as it imprints rich memories that will shape the child's learning attainment. Here are just a few ideas and learning outcomes through inexpensive and creative resources for parents and carers to use in their own familiar environments.

A key point to note, if possible, use a book to cement sensory learning, it gives a child the opportunity to develop their communication skills through play and will extend the child's own 'sea of talk'.



Example: Senses included- **touch, sound, sight**

Hint & tip: soak sponges in flavoured water to include **taste** and **smell**

Comforting: Therapeutic sensory play, using items such as light up toys and therapy balls, can help calm an anxious or restless child.



Cognitive Growth: Sensory play supports a child's cognitive growth; enhancing their thought process, understanding and reasoning. As children manipulate new.



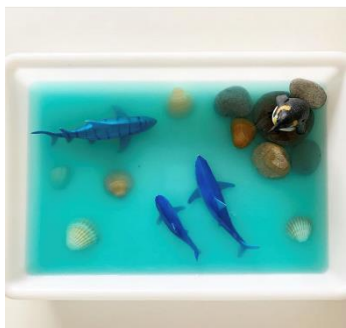
Adaptability: Sensory play encourages children to adapt in new situations. Children begin to learn that they can use sensory play resources in a variety of ways and differentiate between different scenarios through discovery.



Problem Solving Skills

By experimenting with different objects during sensory play, children develop problem-solving skills and decision-making skills. They begin to find solutions to obstacles they come across during sensory play – such as ‘how to make sand stick together’.





Made with jelly!

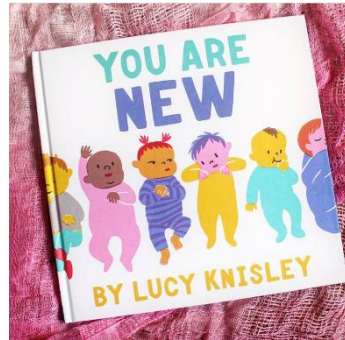


Mashed
potatoes
with food
colouring!



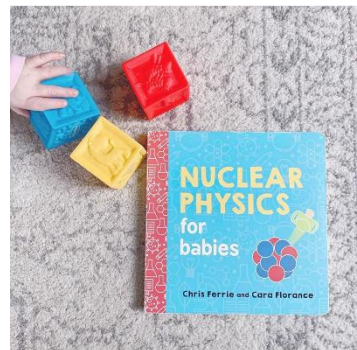
Social Interaction: A positive sensory play environment encourages children to interact and work with others effectively, which is essential for a child's development. They begin to share their ideas and build new relationships. Sand and water play are a popular way of encouraging social interaction!

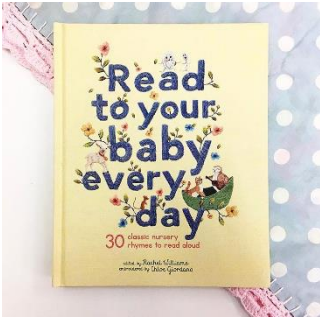




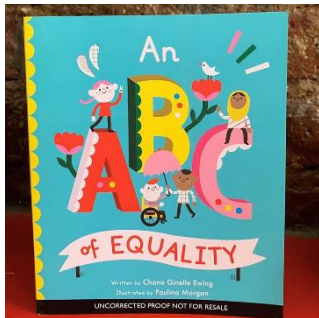
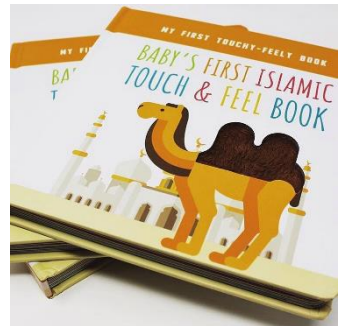
Language Development:

Sensory play helps children learn new ways of talking about the world. It supports their language development and encourages them to communicate effectively with others whilst playing.





Sing songs/ nursery rhymes to extending learning. Giving children a sense of joy and excitement about language will naturally help to boost their desire to read and write.



Rhymes and songs help children to learn to play with words. They

tune their ears to all the sounds in the word.



Fine and Gross Motor Skills: Children identify objects by touch during tactile sensory play, which helps them develop their fine and gross motor skills – such as squeezing, pulling, pushing and throwing.





Awareness: Active sensory play helps children become more self-aware and body-aware, which helps them develop a better sense of space around them.



Brain Development

Engaging a child in sensory play helps strengthen their brain development for learning, which enhances their memory and ability to complete more complex learning tasks.

