

We Skoolhouse



Ready-Made Curriculum: Fabrics & Textures

A Practical Guide for Exploration

Each unit offers a suggested flow of experiences designed to support deep, meaningful learning through play. You'll notice intentional repetition—this is purposeful. Repeating activities builds memory, mastery, confidence, attention, and focus, forming the foundation for long-term learning.

The experiences are open-ended & process-driven, focusing on how children learn rather than what they produce. This allows for a range of learning styles & encourages exploration at each child's unique pace.

Flexibility Matters

Each unit includes a suggested daily activity guide to support your planning—but it's not meant to be followed rigidly or completed in a set order:

- **Follow the children's lead:** If they're deeply engaged, slow down. If interest fades, it's okay to pause and return later. Some children need time to warm up to new ideas—don't move on too quickly. Repeating an invitation over several days can spark richer engagement.
- **Move at your own pace:** Stretch a week into two, repeat activities as long as needed, and allow units to grow over time.
- **Revisit, don't rush:** There's no need to introduce a new unit each month. Returning to a familiar concept—like revisiting water after exploring texture or paint—deepens understanding and strengthens memory. Revisiting isn't starting over—it's going further.

This guide is about making space for curiosity, experimentation, and meaningful learning. Use it as a springboard—trust yourself, trust the children, and allow learning to unfold naturally.



Unit: Fabrics & Textures Exploration

Fabrics and textures invite toddlers into a world of hands-on exploration, movement, and sensory discovery. Through pulling, draping, wrapping, pressing, and sorting materials, toddlers strengthen coordination, language development, and body awareness. Repeating tactile experiences deepens understanding, memory, and comfort with new sensations.

Domain	How It Supports Development
Physical	Enhances fine motor strength and coordination through squeezing, stretching, tearing, stacking, or folding different materials. Gross motor skills are supported through large-scale textured walks or fabric tossing, catching, and dancing.
Cognitive	Builds categorization, comparison, and memory as toddlers sort by texture, match fabric types, or explore sensory differences. Promotes problem-solving and prediction (e.g., "Will this stick?" "Will this bend?").
Language	Expands sensory vocabulary and action-based language ("scratchy," "wrap it," "smooth like a blanket"). Encourages labeling, repetition, and early descriptive expression.
Social-Emotional	Supports emotional regulation and independence as toddlers gravitate toward familiar or calming textures. Group textile play fosters sharing, parallel play, and early peer interaction.

Unit: Fabrics & Textures Exploration

Focus Materials: Fabric swatches, loose parts (wooden rings, corks, pipe cleaners), textured tiles, animal figurines, glue sticks, paint stamping textures (lace, mesh, burlap), storybooks with textured elements.

Books: *Maisy's Wonderful Weather Book* by Lucy Cousins & *What Is a Woolly Bear?* by Mandy Ross

Songs: Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes, Row, Row, Row Your Boat, and You Are My Sunshine

Vocabulary: Soft, rough, smooth, bumpy, fuzzy, silky, stretchy, scratchy, fluffy, crinkly, squishy, slippery, stiff, thick, thin, fabric, thread, weave, wrap, rub

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Fabric Bin Exploration	Fabric Toss & Catch or Dance	Fabric Bin Exploration	Texture Painting (clothespins + fabric, leaves, etc)	Texture Painting (clothespins + fabric, leaves, etc)
Week 2	Fabric Toss & Catch or Dance	Fabric Bin Exploration	Texture Painting (clothespins + fabric, leaves, etc)	Textures & Animal Play (fabrics, tiles, & animal figures)	Textures & Animal Play (fabrics, tiles, & animal figures)
Week 3	Textures & Animal Play (fabrics, tiles, & animal figures)	Loose Parts on Spiral Path	Loose Parts on Spiral Path	Fabric Bin Exploration	Fabric & Loose Parts Collages
Week 4	Fabric & Loose Parts Collages	Storybook Texture Play (Bear Hunt, Three Little Pigs)	Storybook Texture Play (Bear Hunt, Three Little Pigs)	Texture Painting (clothespins + fabric, leaves, etc)	Fabric Toss & Catch or Dance

Unit: Fabrics & Textures Exploration

Suggested Activities

- **Fabric Bin Exploration:** Offer a bin filled with a variety of safe fabric scraps (cotton, fleece, mesh, felt) and cups, tongs, etc.. Let toddlers pull, rub, crumple, and explore textures freely.
- **Fabric Toss & Catch or Dance:** Provide lightweight scarves or fabric squares for children to toss, wave, and dance with. Encourage movement, rhythm, and playfulness.
- **Texture Painting (clothespins + fabrics, leaves, etc.):** Clip different textured items (pom-poms, fabric swatches, leaves, shells) onto clothespins. Let toddlers dip and press them into paint to explore texture and motion.
- **Textiles & Animal Play (invitation):** Thoughtfully arrange tiles, textile samples (wool, faux fur, feathers) with animal figures to inspire exploration, experimentation, & discovery
- **Loose Parts on Spiral Path:** Draw a large spiral on fabric or butcher paper. Offer toddler-safe loose parts (wooden rings, corks, pom-poms) to place or arrange along the line.
- **Fabric & Loose Parts Collage:** Set out pre-cut fabric swatches and large loose parts (wooden buttons, paper shapes, etc.) with glue sticks. Invite children to create freely by layering and sticking (remember process > product!).
- **Storybook Texture Play:** Read a familiar story (The Three Little Pigs, We're Going on a Bear Hunt) and offer matching textured materials (straw, sticks, soil, smooth stones) to explore and act out scenes.



Unit: Fabrics & Textures Exploration

Alternatives and Extensions:

Explore these simple variations to extend play, supporting repetition, variety, and deeper sensory learning:

- **Dress-Up Textures Station:** Offer fabric-based dress-up pieces (silky scarves, wool hats, fleece vests). Let toddlers explore the feel of clothing textures as they role-play.
- **Tug and Weave Wall:** A toddler-height frame (like a baby gate or drying rack) with wide fabric strips that children can thread through openings.
- **Fabric Cutting Invitation (for older toddlers):** Provide blunt-tipped toddler scissors and thin fabric scraps for children to cut freely—building fine motor strength and independence.
- **Indoor Texture Trail:** Create a path of fabric mats, rugs, and textured surfaces across the floor for children to crawl or walk across (ideally barefoot).
- **Texture Rubbing with Crayons:** Tape textured fabrics under paper. Let toddlers use chunky crayons to reveal patterns through gentle rubbing.
- **Sensory Wall or Board:** Mount a vertical board at toddler height with swatches of fabric, netting, sponge, felt, faux fur, and ribbon loops—perfect for touch-based exploration anytime.
- **Cozy Fabric Tent or Texture Nook:** Drape various fabrics over a low table or simple frame to create a cozy space for resting, reading, or exploring textures through light and movement.

