

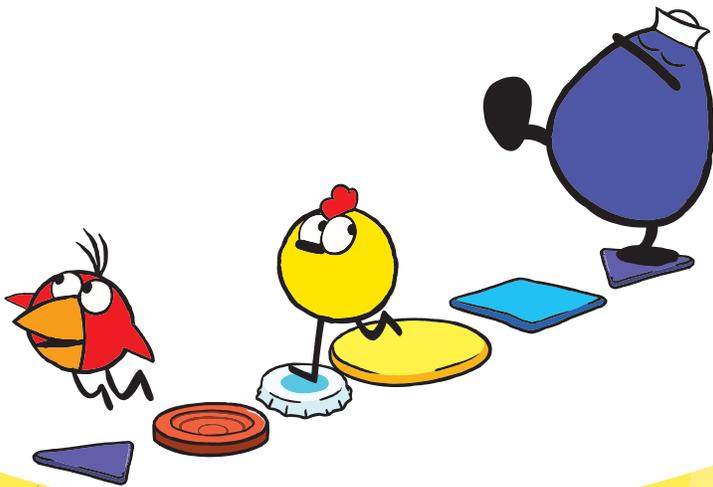
Touching

How can so much fun teach STEM skills?

The five senses are the most basic way children explore, process, and come to understand new information. Touching allows us to distinguish fine details our other senses miss. We use our sense of touch to manipulate tools to help us communicate and create.

Try these Activities!

- **Mystery objects.** Place a variety of objects in a pillowcase or a similar-size bag. Invite the children to feel each object and try to figure out what it is without looking. Pass the bag around so everyone has a chance. Use a variety of objects both familiar and new.
- **Take the plunge.** Assemble bags of a variety of items, such as beans, sand, mulch, leaves, top soil, and yogurt or something similar for the brave. Have children plunge their hands into each bag. Ask them a variety of questions to stimulate creative thinking: What would you build with this? Who lives in that stuff? Where did it come from?
- **Eye sense.** Have children hold one hand over their eyes so they can't see. Slowly drag a piece of string, a feather, a tissue, or something similar across the back of their other hand. Ask them to guess which item was used.



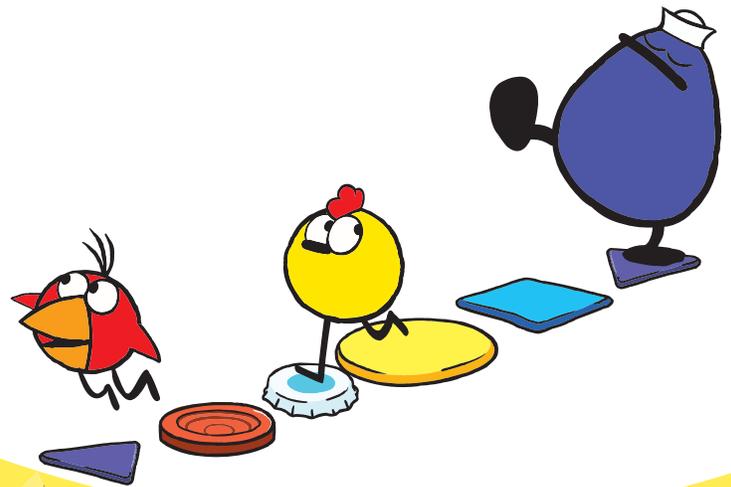
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Tell Children:

- **“Does it feel like a shoe or an apple?”** Give them hints to focus their attention.
- **“Tell me about it.”** Ask open-ended questions. You may be surprised by the response.

Tell Parents:

Today we explored our sense of touch. Ask your child to name something that is soft, hard, prickly, goopy, squishy, bumpy, silky, or pointy.

Brain-Building Connection:

The sense of touch never takes a break. Exploring touch encourages predicting, divergent thinking, memory, and creative thinking by allowing us to learn about our immediate environment.

Read All About It:

Who Sank the Boat? by Pamela Allen

Boy, Were We Wrong about Dinosaurs by Kathleen V. Kudlinski

The Ocean Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta

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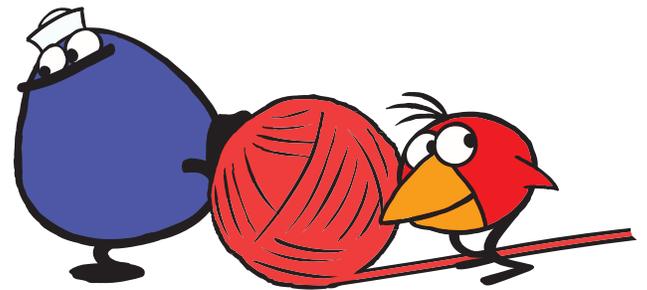
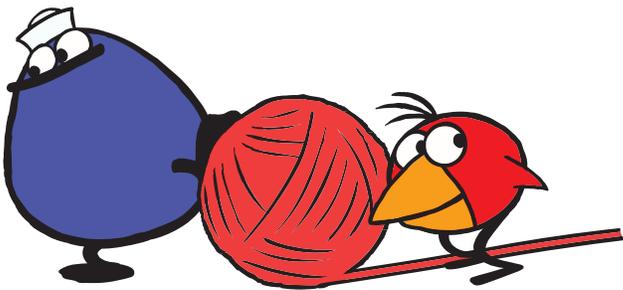
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