

# News Notes

A Newsletter for Teachers of Students with Significant  
Cognitive Disabilities  
Educational Equity for All



April 2016

## 50 NON-FOOD SENSORY BIN FILLERS {FREE PRINTABLE LIST}

<http://www.andnextcomes1.com/2015/08/non-food-sensory-bin-fillers-for-kids.html>

### Ultimate Guide to Dyeing Sensory Materials



Many teachers like to use a variety of sensory bin fillers at our classes, including both food and non-food items. However, a lot of people prefer not to use food in their sensory bins. Here are **50 non-food sensory bin fillers** to try with your kids, including example sensory bin ideas for each single item.

There is a **free printable list** of all 50 sensory bin fillers. [How to Dye Shredded Coconut](#)



<http://adaptions4kidz.blogspot.com/>



**Educational Activities, Inc.**  
Publisher of Quality Educational Materials Since 1948

<https://www.edact.com/single-song-downloads>

Early Childhood PreK-3 | Music & Product Downloads | Upper Elementary & Middle School | High School & Adult Education

Educational Activities' commitment is to produce products that support the efforts of teachers, librarians and parents. We use current brain research to carefully craft engaging educational materials –whether it is to ensure that all young children are ready for school or to help older students understand complex subjects.

For young children, programs focus on developing skills that align to early learning standards and core curricula through developmentally appropriate music and movement activities. For older students, interactive and thoughtful video programs provide reinforcement to subject areas and assist teachers in implementing flipped learning.

**EDUCATIONAL  
EQUITY FOR ALL**  
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All  
[Misstanad@educationequityforall.org](mailto:Misstanad@educationequityforall.org); 909-964-5057  
<http://www.educationequity4all.com/>

## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



### INSECT LORE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

This wonderful butterfly kit includes a charming butterfly garden habitat, a fun-filled fact guide, and a certificate to send away for 5

caterpillars and food. Kids can watch and learn as the tiny caterpillars grow into beautiful Painted Lady butterflies!

## Children With Autism in the Classroom

*Reduce Anxiety by:*

- Carefully consider classroom seating assignments
- Be aware of sensory concerns and provide sensory stimuli as needed. Build sensory breaks into daily schedule if needed,
- Vigorously but respectfully maintain class rules and boundaries
- Provide a predictable structure and prepare the children in advance for transitions or changes in schedules.
- Use “priming” for social situations, changes, and test taking.
- Use of “red” cue to teach self-monitoring through stoplight or thermometer
- Provide “safe haven” or quiet area
- Monitor your own nonverbal and paraverbal communication.
- Don’t argue – redirect
- Don’t assume they can read body language, facial expressions...Be direct! Explain feelings.
- Visuals (Visuals are processed better than words because they don’t go away immediately!)
- Provide weekly/monthly agendas
- Clearly organize information on your board.
- Provide question cards (color coded).
- Provide instruction cards (cue cards).
- Provide “turn cards” for answering questions.
- Consistent system to signal an activity change.
- Collect assignments in a routine way.
- Post daily schedule (visual schedule).
- Avoid jokes and sarcasm.

<http://teaching.monster.com/benefits/articles/10265-children-with-autism-in-the-classroom>

## ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION



Developing  
Communication  
Skills

### Cause and Effect

Understanding ‘cause’ and ‘effect’ is an important stage of development. It involves understanding the connection between an action and a consequence.

Cause and effect begins early in development when a child learns to influence their environment. For example, looking at and reaching for their cup then looking at their parent, and repeating this until their action (looking and reaching) results in the consequence (being given their drink). It is an intentional action.

<http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk/parents/alternative-forms-communication/developing-communication-skills>

### WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/departments/sped/research/>  
<http://www.incredibleart.org/files/special.htm>  
<https://www.facebook.com/especialneeds?nr>



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The CEC 2016 Annual Convention & Expo is the biggest, baddest, special education professional development event of the year.

Learn more at [www.ceconvention.org](http://www.ceconvention.org), and register now!

Join us April 13-16, 2016, in St. Louis for all the professional development you can handle. We've got over 500 sessions, convention workshops, social events, prize drawings, hundreds of exhibitors, and 3 general sessions, all designed to provide you the information you need to support your students.

### NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH



...to address the full range of issues facing children with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities...

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncser/>