



Scent Activity

Scent is important to many animals to mark their territories, find their mates or young, and to defend themselves - like Scratchy the Skunk!

What you need:

- Plastic ziploc bags or other small glass or plastic containers
- Cotton balls
- Various scents or spices (vinegar, vanilla, peppermint extract, almond extract, lemon juice, perfume, chocolate powder, onion powder, cinnamon, cumin, cloves, mint, etc. - whatever scents you have available in your home!)
- Bandana/blindfold

Directions:

Place the various scents in individual plastic baggies (small glass or plastic containers work well also if you have them). Place a small drop of any liquid scent on a cotton ball and place the cotton ball in the bag. Dry spices can be placed in the bag on its own. Have your child put on the blindfold, smell each baggie one at a time and try to identify the scents inside.

Alternatives: Place two of each scent in different baggies. Challenge your child to find all the matching scents. (It's helpful to make a small mark on the baggie so you know which are the correct matches!) - Or create a scent trail for your child to follow by using one "lead" scent among various other scents. They must follow the "lead" scent only and not get side-tracked! Where will your trail lead?

Concepts:

- Connection- smells can bring up memories of the past
- Senses- sense of smell - humans can identify a lot of different smells

What to say:

- Which smells do you like the best? The least?
- Do the smells remind you of anything?

