

Leap Into Science Week 2022

"Make Sense of Our World!"

Today's Activity: Popcorn Senses!

Using popcorn to teach about your five senses is a fun and engaging way to teach your students about making observations. This activity is a great way to use our sense of sight, smell, touch, sound, and taste to observe this fluffy, white treat. If you have an air popper and kernels, bring it into your classroom so your children can actually observe the popping kernels turning into fluffy, white popcorn! You would be surprised how many kiddos have never experienced popcorn popping! Before

the kernels go into the popper, ask the children to touch the kernels. As it is popping, talk to your children about what they hear, smell, and see happening. After it is finished popping and has cooled, ask the children what it feels like now. How does it taste? What about smell? Go over each sense and record it on a large chart in your classroom that is marked for each sense. (check out our example on page 4!) This activity can also be tried with different types of flavors on the popcorn (sugar,

salt, cheese etc) or using different types of food such as apples, pumpkins, or coconuts!



Materials Needed:

- Popcorn kernels
- Popcorn air popper
- Bag of microwave popcorn (if popper and kernels are unavailable)
- Small cups for each child
- Large piece of paper to write observations on

Books to check out today!

- The Popcorn Book by Tomie de Paola
- Pop!: Otto, the Kernel Who Didn't Pop by Karen Kilpatrick
- I Hear a Pickle (and Smell, See, Touch, and Taste It, Too!) by Rachel Isadora

Please Note:

Popcorn tasting is not recommended for children under the age of 4 as it may be a choking hazard. Also be sure to check for food allergies.

WV Early Learning Standards:

Pre-K Standards: Science as Inquiry:

Utilization of Inquiry

SC.PK.5 Identify the five senses and use them to make observations

SC.PK.7 Engage in scientific talk by utilizing words (e.g., observe, compare, contrast, measure, reflect, predict, plan).

Infant/Toddler Standards:

Approaches to Learning: Curiosity-Exploring with the senses

Creative Expression: Visual Arts-Notices difference in textures

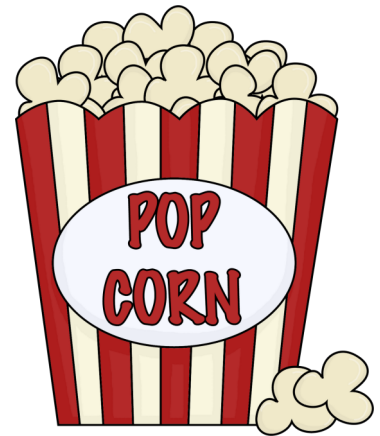
Social Emotional: Emotions-makes comforts and discomforts shown



We Taste With Our Tongue!

See the Little Kernel (Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)

See the little kernel in the pot,
Turn on the heat and watch it hop.
When it gets all warmed up, it will pop.
Mmmm, it tastes good when it's hot!



Popcorn Popping!

One little kernel *(Hold up one finger)*
Sleeping in the pot. *(Curl up and pretend to sleep)*
Turn on the heat
And watch it pop. *(Jump into the air)*
Popping, hopping popcorn *(Hop around)*
A munchy, crunchy treat. *(Pretend to eat)*
Pour on the butter *(Pretend to pour on butter)*
And let me eat! *(Pretend to eat)*

The Popcorn Pop

By: Gary Rosen and George Story

Pop! Pop! Pop!

Pop! Pop! Pop! *(clap for each Pop!)*

Put the corn into the pot.

Pop! Pop! Pop! *(clap for each Pop!)*

Shake and shake it till it's hot.

Pop! Pop! Pop! *(clap for each Pop!)*

Lift the lid and what have you got?

Pop! Pop! Pop! **POPCORN!** *(clap for each Pop! Jump up on POPCORN!)*

Taste Test!

If your child is eating all kinds of foods and has no allergies, help him learn about the different types of flavors and textures. For older children, have them close their eyes and see if they can guess what they are eating—and learn about the important role of vision in tasting!

Foods to Try:

- Salty: potato chips or French fries
- Sweet: fruit juice
- Sour: pickle
- Bland: water
- Tangy: barbecue sauce
- **For older kids:** flavored jelly beans. Can they figure out the flavor of each?
- **For older kids:** have them make a chart and tally what tastes the like and what tastes they don't
- Smooth: yogurt
- Crunchy: carrots
- Lumpy: Cottage Cheese
- Bitter: unsweetened chocolate

Ice Cream

Taste Comparison!

Choose two (or more) flavors of ice cream. Put the two flavors in taste cups labeled A and B. Write down what your child thinks it smells like and then what it tastes like. Allow your child to "discover" what the flavor is, and see if she was right or not.

Snow Cream Recipe

12 c "clean" snow






2 tsp vanilla extract

1 14oz can sweetened condensed milk

Mix together enjoy!



Use this chart to help you brainstorm what you would like your classroom chart to look like for your Popcorn Senses activity!

I Can Hear	I Can See	I Can Smell	I Can Feel	I Can Taste
				

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