

Session Title: Small Groups, Big Impact: Sensory-rich center time for preschool and elementary students

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Annotated Bibliography

Palumbo, Jennifer. "The Power of Sensory Play in Childhood Development." *Forbes*, 10 Oct. 2023,
www.forbes.com/sites/jenniferpalumbo/2023/10/10/the-power-of-sensory-play-in-childhood-development/.

This article discusses the importance of sensory play in childhood development, highlighting how it benefits children's physical, cognitive, and emotional growth. The author explains various forms of sensory play, including activities that engage the five senses, and provides expert opinions on why these activities are critical during early childhood. Palumbo also emphasizes how sensory play can improve motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and social interaction.

Brightwheel. "Everything to Know About Sensory Play | The Ultimate Guide." *Brightwheel*, 29 Sept. 2023,
mybrightwheel.com/blog/everything-to-know-about-sensory-play-the-ultimate-guide.

This article provides an in-depth look at sensory play, explaining its importance in children's development. It covers the role sensory play has in cognitive, language, motor skills, and social-emotional growth. The article highlights various sensory activities that engage children's senses and provides ideas for incorporating sensory play into daily routines.

Texas Education Agency. "Learning Centers/Stations in Early Childhood Classrooms." *Texas Education Agency*,
tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/educator-resources/learning-centers/stations-in-early-childhood-classrooms.

This resource from the Texas Education Agency offers guidance on the use of learning centers and stations in early childhood classrooms. It discusses the importance of hands-on, interactive learning experiences that allow children to explore different topics and skills. The article outlines various types of centers, such as sensory, dramatic play,

and construction zones, and provides practical tips for implementing these stations in a classroom setting.

Zosh, Jennifer M., Caroline Gaudreau, Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, and Kathy Hirsh-Pasek. "The Power of Playful Learning in the Early Childhood Setting." *National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)*, Summer 2022, naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/summer2022/power-playful-learning.

This article explores the concept of playful learning in early childhood education, arguing that play and learning should not be seen as opposites. It presents the idea that learning through play supports children's development across various domains, including cognitive, social, and emotional growth. The article discusses the role of teachers in facilitating playful learning by integrating educational goals with play-based activities.