

BLINK AT HOME

SENSE OF SMELL

How can you use your sense of smell?

Skills to Develop

- + Science process skills
- + Verbal communication
- + Creative thinking

Materials

- + Small cups or containers
- + Fragrant items: coffee, tea bags, pickles, spices, essential oils, seasonings, flowers, fruits, etc.
- + Aluminum foil

WHAT TO DO

During the Learning Activity

1. Collect pairs of familiar fragrant items from around the house: coffee, tea bags, pickles, spices, essential oils on cotton balls, seasonings, flowers, fruits, etc. Gather anything with a familiar fragrance that you can place in a container and smell safely.
2. Set small containers out in pairs. Invite your child to fill containers so the same smell goes in two containers, creating pairs of matching smells.
3. Cover one container from each pair with aluminum foil so that you cannot see inside. Poke small holes in the foil to allow for smelling.
4. Set the uncovered containers in a line. Mix the covered containers up so you do not remember which container holds which smell.
5. Invite your child to smell the covered containers one at a time and match them with the uncovered containers using only their sense of smell. Ask: *how would you describe the smell? What does the smell make you think about? Which container do you think matches the smell in this one?*
6. Once your child has matched all of the containers, invite them to smell each pair again. Ask: *do those both smell the same? Do you need to make changes to your matching?*
7. Invite your child to remove the aluminum foil and see if their guesses were correct.

Extend the Fun

- + Create scented spice paint for art projects.
- + Time yourself to see how quickly you can match the scents.