

## Grade Level

PreK - Kindergarten

## Duration

20min

## Activity Type

Sensory Play

# Animal-Inspired Sensory Bins

## Goal:

To introduce students to different animals and their body coverings through sensory play.

## Objectives:

1. To identify different types of animals.
2. To identify specific characteristics that define certain animals.
3. To develop sensory motor skills through play.

## Standards:

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PK.AL.1: Actively engages in play as a means of exploration and learning.

PK.PDH.1. Uses senses to assist and guide learning.

## Materials:

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- Large bin
- Animal toys
- Sensory bin base (see photos for inspiration)

## Procedure:

### Introduction

A sensory bin is a fun, hands-on activity that allows children to learn by playing with different objects and materials that engage their senses. Sensory bins can be themed and used as a tool to teach children about animals.

### Creating Your Sensory Bin

Make sure you have a large bin or box that can hold the materials. Your bin should have a base – this can include materials such as sand, water, rice, soil, seeds, beans, cotton balls, etc. Make sure your base is appropriate for your students' age-group.

Choose a theme for your bin. Ideas may include pets, farm animals, different animal groupings (mammals, birds, reptiles, etc.), or different animal habitats (rainforest, desert, ocean).

Below, we have created some mini-sensory bins to serve as inspiration for your classroom’s animal-themed sensory play. The materials listed are not exhaustive – get creative when making your own bin for your class!



### **Mammal Bin**

The goal of the mammal bin is to introduce students to different mammals, their furry body coverings, and other mammal characteristics.

*Pictured: Pom pom balls, faux fur, mammal toys*



### **Bird Bin**

The goal of the bird bin is to introduce students to different birds, their feathery body coverings, and other bird characteristics, such as nest-building and egg-laying.

*Pictured: Faux grass, craft feathers, sticks, moss, wood slices, bird toys*



## Reptile Bin

The goal of the reptile bin is to introduce students to different reptiles, their scaly body coverings, and other reptile characteristics, such as basking or shedding scales.

*Pictured: Sand, dry grass, rocks, reptile toys*



## Amphibian Bin

The goal of the amphibian bin is to introduce students to different amphibians, their slimy body coverings, and other amphibian characteristics, such as their ability to live on both land and water.

*Pictured: Water, green watercolor paint, rocks, amphibian toys*



## Fish Bin

The goal of the fish bin is to introduce students to different fish, the body parts that allow them to live underwater, and other fish characteristics.

*Pictured: Water, blue watercolor paint, seashells, fish toys*



## **Insect Bin**

The goal of the insect bin is to introduce students to different insects, their segmented bodies, and other insect characteristics.

*Pictured: Faux grass, moss, pinecones, wood slices, sticks, insect toys*



## **Farm Bin**

The goal of the farm bin is to introduce students to the different animals that live on a farm and what they produce.

*Pictured: Faux grass, miniature hay bale, moss, farm animal toys*