Children learn and gather information from their surroundings using their five senses (sight, smell, touch, taste, and hearing). Check out these activities that turn everyday items into opportunities for creative play and learning to help your little one explore their senses.

### Learning Through the Senses
1. **Soap Sensation:** Use bath time to experiment! Lather kids with soap and watch bubbly suds form. Invite them to feel the sensation against their skin, and observe the bubbles—are they big, small, transparent (clear), or opaque (cloudy)?
2. **Pot and Pan Band:** Take out a pot, pan, and spoon. Together, experiment with sound by creating your own musical rhythm! Listen as you drum softly and then loudly with the spoon or with your hand! Notice the different sounds you can make.
3. **Fruity Discovery:** Snack time is a great time to exercise those taste buds! Give kids small pieces of fruit (like bananas or apples) and invite them to smell each fruit before tasting it. Compare sensations such as sweet/tart taste or mushy/crunchy texture. What else describes the fruit?
4. **The Wonders of Water:** Gather three cups, filling one with cold water, one with warm water, and one with ice. Explain that cups hold water of different temperatures. Encourage kids to place their hand in each cup. How does it feel? What do you notice if you pour from one cup into another cup?

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**Family Reading Tip: Ask Questions**

As you read, take time to stop and ask your child questions about the story. Try to ask questions that are “open-ended”, or do not have “yes” or “no” answers, such as, “Tell me about...”, “Why do you think...”, or, “What do you think about...?”. These will encourage your child to build critical thinking and comprehension skills.

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All books are available at your local libraries or click on each book cover for read-aloud links!