

Jenny set up some items at the sensory table with the children. Paulin and Romy helped to fill some balloons with different materials, such as rice, sand, soup mix (dried beans), flour and different types of salt. There were many other items placed in the tubs as well and as part of the investigations, Jenny challenged the children to think about what the different objects or items were made of, or how they were made.

Maxwell felt the different balloons.

Maxwell: it feels so grainy. I don't know what's in there. Maybe it's dirt?

Paulin: Ich habe mit geholfen. Ich weiss was drin ist.

Maxwell: This one feels different. It feels squishy and soft.



Other children joined in and felt the balloons. While others helped Jenny find new and different ingredients. Paulin had the idea to put some playdough inside one of the balloons.



Karla and Anton spent some time investigating the contents of the tubs. Anton felt all of the different balloons before holding them up to his hear so that he could better identify what was inside.

Anton: Das ist Sand oder vielleicht Salz?'



Paulin: Da ist Knete drin.





A.: Look at all the balls!  
Alexander sorted all of the pom poms together and placed them on a spoon, trying to see how many he could fit on it.  
Alexander: There's so many! They feel soft!

Jenny asked the children many questions as they played with the materials.

Sebastian: This one feels ticklish ( the feather)

T.: This one feels like piranhas.

A.: Let me feel. It feels like playdough.

A. stretched the balloon and commented on the outer shell.

A.: It's a gummy bear! It's gummy!



T.: I got a red one. It's stinky.  
Alexander: It's not. Everything smells good.  
Annalisa: I got pompoms!  
T.: Pirhanas!  
Jenny asked again how the different materials felt...  
Sebastian: Spikey ( rock salt).



A.: It's like...rocks...leaves!  
Sebastian: Red is crunchy.  
A.: It's sticks  
Jenny pointed out that sticks are sharp.  
A.: Grass!



Avielle: Sprinkles! It's playdough in there!  
 Avielle also held the balloon to her ear to listen to the sound the texture inside made.

Avielle: It's mud in there.  
 Jenny revealed that it was sand and encouraged the children to all listen to the balloons when placed next to their ear.

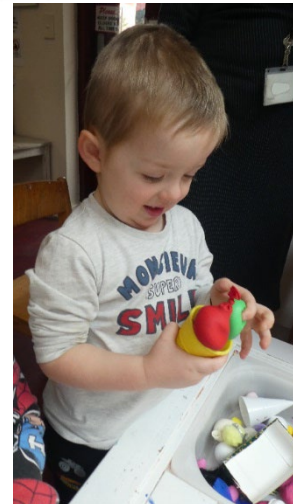
Jenny then showed them the small wooden ball and asked the children what it was made of..

A.: A ball...sticks...it's wooden!  
 Catherine asked if they knew where wood came from.

A: Trees!



T. : It's squeaky when you do it like this (holding it to his ear).  
 Sebastian: What is the green one? I can squish the green one on the red one.  
 Jenny asked the children which was their favourite item in the sensory tubs.



Avielle: Purple!  
 Sand!  
 Alexander felt the pom poms in his hands and Jenny pointed out that he seemed to like the feel of those.  
 Alexander: They're soft.

The sensory experience encouraged the children to guess what was inside of the balloons and to engage their senses as part of this process. Here they used the sense of sight, touch as well as hearing as they worked with the different materials. Having opportunities to explore materials in this intentional way encourages the children to engage thinking and cognitive skills, to listen, to engage in dialogue and extend language skills through describing what they can see, touch and feel and hear. Through Jenny's intentional questions the children fine-tuned their responses ( such as when they only commented on the colour of the objects and moved towards describing what they could hear and feel).

**Intentionality:** is being thoughtful and purposeful in actions and making decisions and is something that both children and educators can do. Children are intentional in their thinking, ways of communication and learning and at times lead their own learning and the learning of others. Educators are intentional in the roles they take in children's play and the way they intentionally plan the environment and curriculum experiences EYLF V2.0, 2022 Glossary p66