

# Rainbow Sensory Rice Hands-On Learning Curriculum

**Introduction:** Rainbow Sensory Rice is a vibrant and versatile tool that can spark creativity, develop fine motor skills, and encourage sensory exploration for children ages 4 and up. This curriculum provides engaging lesson plans that integrate play and learning across various subject areas. Each activity is designed to be developmentally appropriate and aligned with educational standards.

For best practices and good, clean fun, we recommend pairing the Rainbow Sensory Rice with the [Montessori Sensory Set Table!](#)

---

## Lesson Plan 1: Creating Sensory Bins

**Objective:** Sensory bins are a fantastic way to engage children in hands-on learning that stimulates their senses and supports exploration, fine motor development, and creativity.

### Materials:

- Rainbow Sensory Rice
- Other sensory materials (kinetic sand, dry pasta or lentils, strips of fabric, water beads, etc.)
- Bowls or containers
- Items to place in sensory bins

### Instructions:

1. Spread the Rainbow Sensory Rice in a bin. Add other sensory materials to other containers.
2. Add items that enhance exploration and align with the theme:
  - For a dinosaur theme: small plastic dinosaurs, rocks, and brushes for "fossil digs."
  - For a construction theme: toy trucks, small blocks, and scoops for "building sites."
  - For a sensory holiday bin: mini ornaments, bells, and fake snow.
  - Add scoops, tweezers, cups, or small containers to encourage sorting, scooping, and pouring.
3. Incorporate a learning element.
  - Matching cards or puzzles for problem-solving.
  - Letters or numbers for literacy or math practice.
  - Items to count, sort, or group by color, shape, or size.

4. Encourage Open-Ended Play: Let the child explore freely, as open-ended play promotes creativity and independent learning. Ask questions or suggest tasks like “Can you find all the blue beads?” to gently guide learning.
- 

## **Lesson Plan 2: Color Sorting and Matching**

**Objective:** Children will identify, sort, and match colors to develop color recognition and fine motor skills.

**Materials:**

- Rainbow Sensory Rice
- Small bowls or containers
- Colored cards or papers matching the rice colors

**Instructions:**

1. Spread the rice in a shallow bin.
  2. Provide small scoops or spoons for the children.
  3. Place the colored cards or papers in front of each bowl.
  4. Have children scoop and sort rice into the corresponding colored bowls.
  5. Discuss the colors and variations in light and dark.
- 

## **Lesson Plan 3: Letter and Number Exploration**

**Objective:** Children will practice letter and number recognition through tactile exploration.

**Materials:**

- Rainbow Sensory Rice
- Plastic or wooden letters and numbers
- A shallow bin

**Instructions:**

1. Hide the letters and numbers in the rice.
2. Invite children to dig through the rice to find the letters and numbers.
3. Once found, have them match the letters to a printed alphabet chart or arrange the numbers in order.
4. Encourage children to spell simple words or create math equations with the pieces.

**Extensions:**

- Incorporate themed vocabulary words (e.g., animals, seasons).
  - Have children trace the letters or numbers they've found on paper.
- 

**Lesson Plan 4: Sensory Storytime**

**Objective:** Children will enhance their storytelling and comprehension skills through sensory engagement.

**Materials:**

- Rainbow Sensory Rice
- Small themed objects (e.g., toy animals, miniature trees, cars)
- A shallow bin
- Storybook related to the theme (e.g., "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" or "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?")

**Instructions:**

1. Set up the rice in a bin and add themed objects.
2. Read the story aloud to the children.
3. Encourage children to use the objects to act out scenes from the story in the rice bin.
4. Prompt discussion by asking open-ended questions about the story.

**Extensions:**

- Create new stories using the objects in the bin.
  - Add drawing activities where children illustrate their favorite part of the story.
- 

**Lesson Plan 5: Sensory Math Games**

**Objective:** Children will develop basic math skills through hands-on play.

**Materials:**

- Rainbow Sensory Rice
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Dice or number cards

**Instructions:**

1. Have children roll dice or pick a number card.

2. Ask them to scoop that many spoonfuls or cupfuls of rice into a separate container.
3. Introduce concepts like addition and subtraction by combining or removing amounts of rice.

**Extensions:**

- Practice estimation by guessing how many scoops are needed to fill a container.
  - Explore measurement concepts (e.g., volume, comparison).
- 

## **Lesson Plan 6: Collaborative Art with Rainbow Sensory Rice**

**Objective:** Children will create collaborative art to develop creativity and teamwork skills.

**Materials:**

- Rainbow Sensory Rice
- Large sheets of paper or cardboard
- Glue
- Paintbrushes

**Instructions:**

1. Have children paint designs or shapes with glue on the paper or cardboard.
2. Sprinkle the rice onto the glue and press gently.
3. Shake off the excess rice to reveal the design.
4. Display the artwork in the classroom or at home.

**Extensions:**

- Explore patterns and symmetry in designs.
  - Create themed art projects (e.g., seasonal, cultural).
-

**Educational Standards Addressed:****Common Core State Standards (CCSS):**

- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.CC.B.4: Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3: With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

**National Core Arts Standards (NCAS):**

- VA:Cr1.1.PK: Engage collaboratively in creative art-making.
- VA:Re7.1.PK: Recognize that people make art.

**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC):**

- Promoting cognitive and social development through exploration.
- Encouraging hands-on, play-based learning as developmentally appropriate practice.