

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

# sensory GARDEN

at the Winter Haven Public Library

The Sensory Bag is filled with different activities to try. The activities are meant to be stress free - so if you don't like something, try another one. There is not a right or wrong way to use the Sensory Bag. Although instructions are included, feel free to use the materials in new ways - explore the garden using the items in the bags. Play, talk, discover and have fun.

## **Beach in a Box:**

Play with the sand and shells. Talk about if you've ever been to a beach and what you like or don't like about sand. Engage your imagination and senses by asking questions and talking about things like the smell of saltwater, the feeling of the ocean breeze and the sound of seagulls.

## **Scent Box:**

Explore the different scents in the box and discuss what feelings or thoughts the scent brings up. It is ok if you are not able to say what scents you like and dislike – even a smile or a frown or a shake of a head will do. Maybe the scents bring up emotions or memories. Ask questions and explore.

## **Books:**

Use the books to read independently or together or simply look at the pictures and enjoy. Start discussions using the pictures.



**WINTER HAVEN**  
THE CHAIN OF LAKES CITY

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## **Conversation Cards:**

Pick a card and ask the question. If you don't want to answer, simply move on to another card. Share as many stories as you like with each card.

## **Match the Photos Game:**

There are multiple ways to play the game. Instructions are in the envelope with the pieces.

## **Expressions Game:**

Start by reading one of the expressions - see if the player will respond with the answer. If they need prompting - show the pictures on the answer cards to help. Each expression and answer are numbered as well, so the cards can be used as a sorting game - no guessing is necessary. Just sort by the numbers and read the cards together.

## **Word Search:**

Players may do the puzzle together. Give time to look for the word. If help is needed, point to the first letter of the word in the grid. Help as necessary, but allow for time to explore. Make it fun to circle the words and cross the words off list to show completion. If unable to find full words, match letters and circle the letters.

## **Water Paints:**

Use the paint brushes and water from the fountain to "paint" the special painting pages - the colors will magically appear. When dry, the colors will fade to white again and can be reused.



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