

Thoughts on sensory play

'I do a lot of sensory play and have asked all the parents to provide a messy play outfit for their child.

These clothes stay at my setting and are washed at the end of the day. Parents are very happy with this as they know their children have lots of fun, but they don't have any extra washing or their child's "nice" clothes being ruined. I also have all-in-one wetsuits and wellies in various sizes so all the children can enjoy the outdoors no matter what the weather. This is so important as then if a parent forgets a child's coat or shoes it doesn't prevent us all from going outdoors'
(Alison, Denbighshire)

'The parents of children in my care know I'll take the children outside whatever the weather. Once a child is dressed appropriately there seem to be less barriers to enjoying the outside and sensory play'
(Ruth, Newport)

'I write what we have been doing in the child's journal and I also send photos regularly and explain the benefits of sensory play to the parents'
(Claire, Cardiff)

'Parents are made fully aware when they first visit of the importance of sensory play and just how much we do at the setting. Parents are directed to my social media channels so they can be left in no doubt how much sensory play the children will have access to. I make it very clear to parents the ethos of my setting and things like the fact that we are very much process over product so their child will not be bringing home a pretty craft every day. What they will get is real-life, hands-on experiences in a place that is an extension of their home. They will get plenty of photos of their child engaged in meaningful, self-directed play. I share articles and blogs with parents so they can get a deeper understanding of why it's important for their children to have these experiences'
(Amanda, Flintshire)