



# Storytime Activity Guide

## *The Touch Book*

written by Nicola Edwards and illustrated by Thomas Elliott

This book engages children with the natural world through the sense of touch. In this hands-on book, children can touch a sheep's fluffy fleece, run their finger along a crinkly piece of corrugated cardboard, and scrape the rough tree bark while learning about the natural world around them.

### Did you know?

Nature provides a rich and engaging learning environment that supports children's understanding of science concepts. By immersing young children in natural settings and experiences, they develop a strong foundation for scientific thinking and exploration. While reading *The Touch Book*, practice engaging children in the use of their senses -- and especially the sense of touch -- to **make and share observations about the characteristics of objects**.



### Words to Practice

sticky  
fluffy  
soft  
bumpy  
furry  
rough

### Talk about it!

Babies and very young children may not be talking yet or have a big enough vocabulary to answer you. Even if you are answering your own questions, every time you talk with your child about what you see in *The Touch Book*, you are building their vocabulary and comprehension.

- Look at the cover of *The Touch Book*. Point out the objects one by one and ask your child to share their observations about their texture.
- Look at this stuffed animal. How do you think it feels? I think it feels soft. What are some other things that feel soft?
- What are some other things that have a bumpy texture?
- What is the fluffiest thing that you have felt?
- Which is more rough: a rock or a cabbage?

### Find More Online

Scan this QR code for more free resources.



[qrco.de/TouchBook](http://qrco.de/TouchBook)

## Explore!

In this activity where art meets science, children use crayons to make leaf rubbings.

### Materials needed:

- An assortment of leaves (that have fallen to the ground)
- Paper
- Crayons or colored pencils

1. Gather leaves that have fallen to the ground. Look for a variety of shapes and sizes. Close your eyes and feel the leaves. How do they feel?
2. Place the leaves on a sheet of plain paper. Place another sheet of paper on top.
3. Using the flat end of a crayon or color pencil, color lightly over the leaves until the full outline of the leaf becomes visible.
4. As you create the leaf prints, talk to your child about the veins that help to create the leaf's texture. For example, you can tell them, "These lines that run through the flat part of the leaf are its veins. Veins carry food and water to the plant."
5. Once the leaf rubbings are done, you can hang them up and enjoy your creations!



### Play: Texture Scavenger Hunt

Review the texture words listed in *The Touch Book* with your child. Help your child to make a collection of 6 to 8 different household objects.

Lay the collection out on a surface. Invite your child to examine each object carefully. Using the words from *The Touch Book*, help your child describe each object.

