



## SCENT EXPLORATION

**Time taken:** 40 minutes

**Materials needed:** blindfold, assorted spices in unlabeled containers, some water

**Pairs well with:** Bat and Moth, Owl Ears

**Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Academic skills practiced:** trust, motor functioning, night time adaptations

- **Introduce the activity:** Invite your kids into a discussion of our various senses. Have them turn and talk to the people around them about the following questions:
  - » Which sense is your strongest?
  - » What happens to our senses when the sun goes down?
  - » If you could improve one of your senses, which would it be?
- **This activity dives into the sense of smell.** Quickly go around the circle and give each person a chance to share what their favorite smell is, or a chance to say an animal that has a heightened sense of smell.
- **Divide your group into pairs:**
  - » Hand out bags or containers of spices, making sure there are two containers of each spice. Have them smell around to find the other person in the group who is holding their same spice.
- **Blindfold one partner and have the other person hold out their spice to lead their partners around the area by following the scent.**
  - » Make sure you encourage safety by clearing a space and reminding your learners that being blindfolded can be scary and to always respect their partner.
  - » Optional: Make a relay race for partners to navigate only by following the spice with their nose.
- **Come together and discuss what it was like to explore the world with your nose. Was it difficult? Scary? Could you always find your spice?**
- **Pass around the spices and have the participants try to identify them. Invite them to take a handful of water and splash their noses. Pass around the spices again.**
- **Explain:** Many animals with great senses of smell lick their noses. Did you notice any differences in smelling the spices when your nose was wet? Why?

### Wrap up and Discussion:

- Why is our sense of smell better when our noses are wet?
- Are there any animals who explore the world primarily through their sense of smell?
- What memories are triggered by these spice smells?
- Taste test! Do spices smell the same way as they taste? Why or why not?

### Extension:

- Write a story about what it would be like to navigate the world with one or more of your senses missing.
- Journal about which sense you would improve upon if you could? What would you do with super senses?

Happy distancing,

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