

# STEM By The Book

## That's not my puppy Fiona Watt

### Experiences and Outcomes

I can identify my senses and use them to explore the world around me. **SCN 0-12a**

I have explored my senses and can discuss their reliability and limitations in responding to the environment. **SCN 1-12b**

Through creative play, I explore different materials and can share my reasoning for selecting materials for different purposes. **SCN 0-15a**

Through exploring properties and sources of materials, I can choose appropriate materials to solve practical challenges. **SCN 1-15a**

I enjoy experimenting with a range of textiles. **TCH 0-04b**

I explore everyday materials in the creation of pictures/models/concepts. **TCH 0-10a**

I can recognise a variety of materials and suggest an appropriate material for a specific use. **TCH 1-10a**

## Resources

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Double sided tape
- Insulation or other tape
- Blindfolds or scarf
- Various object such as cotton wool balls, paper clips, sandpaper, kitchen foil

## Activity – Sensory Dominoes

That's not my puppy and the other books in the Usborne touchy-feely series give a great introduction to the senses, in particular the sense of touch. Our sensory domino activity also focuses on the sense of touch.

To make your dominoes you will need a thick piece of cardboard cut into equal rectangles, you can make them any size you like, we chose 15cm x 7cm.

You will need at least 6 dominoes for the game to work but you can make a set of 8, 10 or even more, as long as it is an even number.

Once you have cut out your dominoes mark a dividing line across the middle (Figure1), we marked this out in insulation tape so you could feel the dividing line, you could also use string or ribbon attached with double sided tape or glue.

Using double sided tape learners can now help to attach different objects or pieces of material to either end of the dominoes.

Make sure you have 2 of each object or material and that they are placed on different dominoes so there is something to match up once the set is complete. (Figure 2)

Once you have made your dominoes you are ready to play. Working in pairs the learners should split the set of dominoes between them before placing a blindfold or scarf over their eyes. Remember to ask if learners are happy to do this before proceeding, some may not feel comfortable and should not be required to take part if this is the case. Such learners could simply be allowed to close their eyes.

The first player should then place a domino down on a table with the decorated side facing upwards. The second player then uses their sense of touch to work out what



Figure 1



Figure 2

is on the domino that has been played and to find one amongst their own set that matches one of the objects before placing it next to the corresponding domino.

This continues until all dominoes have been played or no more matches can be made. (Figure 3)

You can make the game trickier by using squares of different fabrics rather than objects.

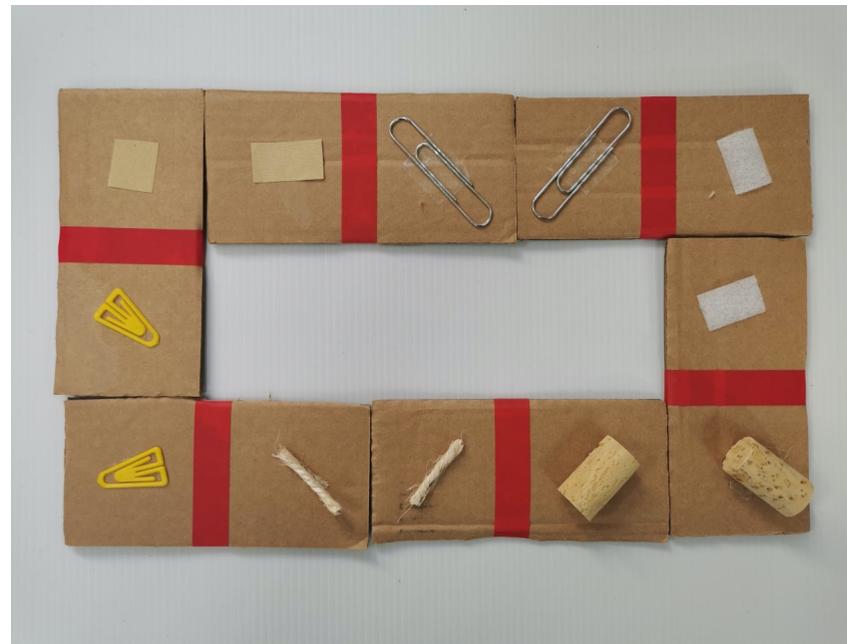


Figure 3





## What next?

As well as investigating senses this activity is great for developing language skills.



Ask learners to describe what they can feel on the dominoes, does the item feel hard or soft, rough or smooth? What other words can they use to describe the item?

Can they describe the object on the domino without looking at it so that someone else can guess what it is?

### **Feely Wall and Feely Tubs**

For more sensory activities including feely walls and feely tubs you can visit us at [SSERC TV](https://www.sserc.org.uk).