

Simple Sensory Activity



Corn Shucking:

Tactile, Fine Motor,
Hand Strengthening



All you need is some newspaper (because you don't want those corn silks all over the place) and a garbage bag to throw the husks into when you're done playing.

In addition to being a great sensory experience, shucking corn is a wonderful way to feel like a contributor to the family.

Tactile

Just stop and think of what an unbelievably tactile activity shucking corn can be.

First, the husks are course and textured.

The silk of the corn is soft and fluffy.

The corn itself is hard and bumpy.

The stem is rock hard and can feel sharp.

Feel the different parts of the corn. How each parts feel?

See what kinds of adjectives (describing words) you come up with to describe each part.



Fine Motor

Grasping each husk isn't a simple job.

You have to be able to pull apart the husks using fine motor skills just to grab one.

Then you need to pull away the silks... and those suckers get everywhere!

Thoroughly clean the corn.... because the cleaner it is, the less of those silks will get stuck in your teeth when you cook them (the corn, not the kids!).



Hand Strengthening

Even if your little one doesn't have the hand strength (yet) to pull down and off those husks, let her try.

The practice of grabbing onto the husks are a terrific way to work those fingers and hands, helping strengthen them.

(And hand strength can help when it comes to handwriting.... it's not all about fine motor.)



Corn Sensory Activity

Now that the corn is shucked, feel free to dump the husks into a bin and see what you can do with them.

Throw in some action figures or princesses, or cars or toy insects!

Could you build a road?

Can you count the husks?

Can you divide them?