

Fun Nose Work for Kids

Dogs have an amazing sense of smell. In fact, their sense of smell is 1 million times better than ours! That's why dogs make such good workers, such as those trained to help humans detect cancer, explosives, or other people. They are capable of using their wonderful noses to accomplish all sorts of tasks. As a fun comparison, this is a game that puts your human nose to the test!

MATERIALS:

- 5 – 10 paper bags
- 5 – 10 fragrant items of choice (1 per paper bag)
 - some good options for odors are: soap, peanut butter, chocolate, oranges, banana, candles, pine leaves
- 5 – 10 small containers with lids (1 per odor)
- Pencils (1 per participant)
- Sheet of paper (1 per participant)
- Marker



INSTRUCTIONS:

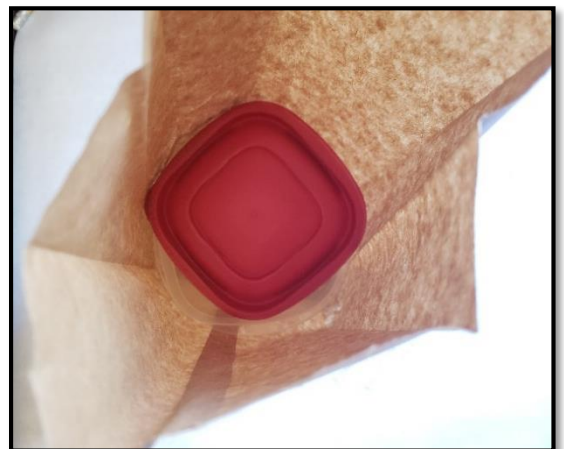
Step 1: Using a marker, draw a large number to label each paper bag (#1-10 depending on the number of items you have).



Step 2: Gather all the smelly items you would like to use.

Step 3: Place them individually in small container (plastic food containers work well).

Step 4: Place the container in a paper bag, with the lid partially covering the top. This allows the odor to come through without you being able to see what is inside (helps prevent peeking!).





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Step 5: Make an answer key, so you know which item is in each numbered bag.

Step 6: Line the paper bags in a single row, side by side, with some space in between (see photo). Give each participant a sheet of paper and a pencil.

Step 7: Instruct participants to go around to sniff each bag (no peeking and no touching the bag). Give a time limit per bag. 30 or 40 seconds works well.



Step 8: Once everyone has smelled each bag, reveal what is in each bag to see how many odors were guessed correctly!

Enjoyed the game? You can always play again using different items. If you want to really mix things up, try using some unexpected items like a stinky sock and sneak in a lesson on the importance of household chores like laundry!