Katie Cantrell
Grade: Kindergarten
Mystery Sounds and Smells

Objective/Purpose: This activity allows the students to identify mystery objects using either their sense of smell or sense of hearing while the other senses are restricted. The experiment helps the students understand the functions of smelling and hearing by limiting use of the other senses. It also gives the young students practice at taking turns and waiting to speak until called on.

QCC’s: Five Senses

Materials/Time Required:
- 4 shoe boxes
- Rocks
- Sticks
- Dirt
- Leaves
- Vinegar
- Perfume
- Bubble bath
- Raisins
- Blindfold
- At least 15 minutes for each sense

Background Information: I modified this idea from one of my teacher’s activity books. This was one of the lessons I did during my first week teaching, and it went over great with the students. The students had participated in a longer lesson on the five sense two days before. Then this lesson was used as an assessment tool, and a way to help the kids understand the function of the senses smell and hearing while the other senses were restricted. We started with the hearing activity. Four numbered shoeboxes were placed in the center of the table. The students took turns passing each shoebox and shaking it to hear what sound the unknown object would make. After the group had guessed what was in each box we removed the lids to find out if they were right. Next, each student took turns being blindfolded and then identifying the unknown smell I held up to his or her nose with out looking or touching the object.

Preparation: The only preparation needed is gathering the materials. Also, I wrapped the shoeboxes in newspaper to cover designs already on the boxes.

Safety Issues: Make sure that anything chosen to smell is not hazardous.

Activity Outline/Teacher Procedures: Make sure that all students have a turn to shake the boxes and guess what is in side. During the activity make sure that the students understand that it is the sense of hearing that they are using as they identify the hidden objects by the sounds they make. Also, during the smell activity, make sure that each
student cannot see through the blindfold and keeps their hands in their laps as they smell. Again, make sure that all the students can identify that they are using their sense of smell.

**Assessment/Evaluation**: This activity is actually an assessment of a previous five senses lesson. Ask the students to identify what sense they used in each of the activities. Discuss how it became more difficult to identify objects when other senses were limited, so in real life situations we use all of our senses together. Also, evaluate the students on how well they waited to have their turn and did not call out what other students smelled.