

The Fabric Box

Presentation & Sequence Cards — A Montessori Tactile Lesson in Matching Textures by Touch

How to Present the Lesson

- 1. Prepare the work.** Place the Fabric Box on a small tray or mat. Inside are pairs of fabric swatches — start with three or four clearly contrasting textures (e.g. silk, burlap, velvet, corduroy).
- 2. Invite the child.** Sit beside the child on their dominant-hand side. Slowly name the work: “This is the Fabric Box.”
- 3. Demonstrate touch.** Lift one swatch. Run two fingers lightly across its surface, pausing to feel its texture, weight, and weave. Replace it.
- 4. Match a pair (eyes open).** Feel a second swatch, then search the box for its partner by touch. Set matched pairs side by side.
- 5. Repeat with eyes closed.** Once the child understands, invite them to close their eyes or wear a blindfold and match the pairs by touch alone.
- 6. Control of error.** The child checks their work by opening their eyes — the visual match confirms the tactile one.
- 7. Extend.** Grade swatches roughest-to-smoothest, use a mystery bag, or send the child on a real-world texture hunt around the home.

A Starter Set of Textures

Fabric	What the fingers notice	Where to find it
Silk / Satin	Cool, smooth, slippery glide	Old scarf or lining
Velvet	Soft, dense, directional nap	Upholstery scrap
Corduroy	Ridged wales, gentle texture	Old trousers
Burlap	Coarse, dry, open weave	Garden or craft cloth
Wool / Felt	Warm, springy, slightly fuzzy	Old sweater or felt sheet
Linen / Cotton	Crisp, dry, even weave	Worn shirt or napkin

“The senses, being explorers of the world, open the way to knowledge.” — Maria Montessori

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