

itty-bitty art

AMON
CARTER
MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN
ART

Texture Testing!

It's time for some touchy-feely sensory play! Paintings and sculptures are full of soft, bumpy, rough, and smooth textures. While we can't touch the art when we're in the museum, the following books and activities are sure to inspire you and your baby to feel, play, and learn at home with your favorite Carter artworks.

Coming to Our Senses

Babies use their sense of touch to learn about their world. From the cause-and-effect reaction of popping bubbles in the bath to the chilling sensation of ice cubes in the summer, babies learn with their whole bodies and love to explore their surroundings. Learn more about how your infant's senses develop with these helpful resources from [Cook Children's](#).

Tummy Time!

Tummy Time provides an opportunity for infants to build their muscles and coordination. Placing a variety of textured toys and objects around your infant during Tummy Time will encourage them to reach, grasp, and explore new sensations. For more tips and tricks for a safe Tummy Time routine, check out this resource from [The American Occupational Therapy Association!](#)

Sensational Stories

The sensory experience of a touch-and-feel book can keep your baby's interest while you read and describe the subject and illustrations. This expands your baby's vocabulary and gives contextual information, which will help them develop their own storytelling abilities. Visit the Fort Worth Public Library's website at fortworthlibrary.org, and explore their uniquely creative and diverse programming for all ages on their YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/fwlibrary](https://www.youtube.com/fwlibrary).

[Where Is Fuzzy Penguin](#), by Yayo Kawamura

[Libro familias](#)

[Mermaid](#), by Dawn Sirett

[Words=Palabras](#)

[Quirky Bird and Other Feathered Friends](#), by Robyn Newton



Playing with the Artwork

Some artworks, like sculptures, have **actual texture**, which means their surface might be rough, bumpy, or smooth in real life. Today, we're focusing on artworks depicting **visual texture**, like Ruth Asawa's *Nasturiums* (1965) which might look fuzzy or sharp but feel smooth to the touch. Included in this packet you'll find images of prints and paintings from the Carter's collection, some textured materials, and some suggestions for playing with your baby.

touching

Choose a texture panel from your supply kit and explore it together with your baby while sitting, reading a story, or feeding. Guide your baby's fingertips, palms, or feet across the panel's surface. Run its texture over your baby's arms or gently touch it to their cheek. Describe the texture and sensation out loud.

Place a few texture cards on your baby's highchair to explore after a snack or place them all around your baby while they are having supervised Tummy Time.

Experiment with temperature by cooling your texture cards in the freezer or warming them in the sun before playtime.

playing

Work with your infant to match your artwork cards to your texture cards. Describe what you're doing, and your decision-making process, as you arrange your cards. Ask questions, make predictions, and have fun making connections!

Find additional household textures, such as fabrics, toys, pieces of wood, ice cubes, or other baby-safe objects, to pair with your artwork cards. Make a texture trail across the ground for crawling or walking infants to explore.

Infants 12 months and older might enjoy artwork-inspired sensory bins using dried oats, frozen vegetables, or corn meal as a base. Take some time to read your artwork cards together, then include other related toys or textured objects to the bin for plenty of messy, edible fun!

For more tips on looking at artwork with infants, check out our guide: [On the Lookout!](#)

Ready for more?

Find plenty of Carter artworks to read and feel [online](#) or in the [museum!](#)





De Scott Evans (1847–1898)

Free Sample, Try One, 1887–88

Oil on canvas

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas

1984.15



Eleanore Mikus (1927–2017)

Tablet Litho 10, 1968

Lithograph

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas

© 1968 Eleanore Mikus

1968.217



Sedrick Huckaby (b. 1975)

A Dialogue with an Unknown People: An Old Woman and Young Woman, 2015

Graphite, watercolor

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas,

© 2013 Sedrick Huckaby

2016.2



Ruth Asawa (1926–2013)

Nasturtiums, 1965

Lithograph

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas,

© 1965 Ruth Asawa

1965.214