

MOB Makers: Isopet



Exploring soothing sculptures with **MICHELLE VINE**

Create self-soothing tactile sculptures with artist Michelle Vine. This activity will explore how touch can be incorporated into the art making process, as the central sense that informs making.

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Finding objects for your isopet:

Start by looking around your home to find unwanted objects that may be suitable for this activity. Small *unwanted household items convert perfectly into tactile tools for exploring touch eg. kitchen utensils, paint brushes, hardware items, toys or sporting equipment*. Your kitchen's third drawer down is an ideal spot to look! Or have a look in your garage or bathroom cabinets. What do you have in your home that feels interesting to touch? Think about curating a library of sensations that can be experienced when you close your eyes and touch these objects gently against your own skin.

Hint: items with handles are ideal! Start to think about creating a unique way of holding the item.

You will need:

- 2 to 5 found objects (see above).
- Blindfold (or something to obscure your vision).
- Foam offcuts and/or wadding.
- Fabrics such as faux furs, velvet, fleece.
- Fast acting glue. Suggestion: Helmers 450 Quick dry, a contact adhesive or super glue.
- Needle and polycotton thread.
- Scissors or craft knives (for cutting foam/fabric).

Before watching the video:

1. Lay the objects and fabrics in front of you.
2. Put on a blind fold and spend 5 minutes exploring the materials. Orient your tactile sense to the process of discovery.
3. Experience the objects and materials selected without sight. Reflect on and play with the sensations you are experiencing. Can you think of combinations of materials that are soothing? Combinations that give great contrast in sensation i.e. silky smooth, versus abrasive surfaces.
4. When you are ready, remove your blindfold and start to bind objects, foam and fabrics to make your own touch tool for self-soothing. *Refer to our video with Michelle Vine*. Try to focus on creating pleasing tactile sensations, rather than a visually attractive result.

