



DECEMBER 2024

# Newsletter

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

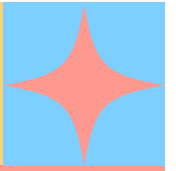
## AT A GLANCE

- Happy Holidays from us to you!
- Sensory Items: Educational vs. Non-Educational
- Deadline Reminders

## Happy Holidays!

As we celebrate the season, we look ahead with hope and gratitude. Your support has helped us accomplish so much, and we're excited for what lies ahead together. On behalf of the Children First Education Fund, we wish you and your family peace, joy, and a bright new year!





## Did you know...

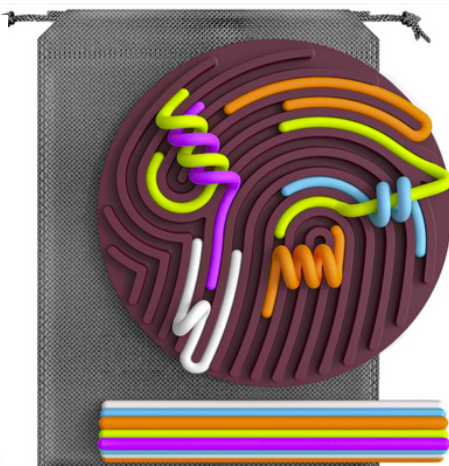
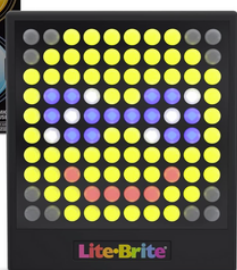
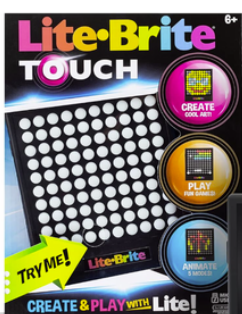
Educational sensory products are intentionally designed to promote learning, skill development, or cognitive growth. They provide an opportunity for the user to engage with sensory experiences in a way that enhances their understanding of concepts, builds knowledge, or strengthens specific abilities.

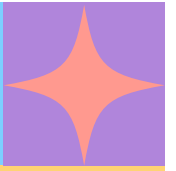
## Characteristics may include...

- **Intentional Learning Outcomes:** The product is designed to teach specific concepts (e.g., shapes, colors, numbers, cause-and-effect).
- **Skill Development:** It targets cognitive, motor, or emotional skill development, such as hand-eye coordination, language development, problem-solving, or social-emotional learning.
- **Guided Engagement:** The product might include instructions, prompts, or guided interaction that encourage active learning or exploration.
- **Content-Driven:** The sensory elements (sound, touch, sight, smell, taste) are integrated with specific educational content or principles. For example, a toy that teaches letters through tactile feedback or a scent-based memory game.

## Examples...

- **Interactive Learning Toys:** Toys that respond with sound or light to help children learn numbers, letters, or animals.
- **Fidget Tools for Focus:** Designed for students with ADHD or learning disabilities, these products help improve focus and attention while subtly reinforcing cognitive strategies..
- **Montessori-Inspired Sensory Activities:** Products that support the development of fine motor skills or spatial awareness, like textured blocks that help children recognize shapes and sizes.





## Non-Educational Examples...

- **Stress Balls or Fidget Spinners:** While these can help with focus or stress reduction, they don't have a built-in educational goal, though they might support general emotional regulation.
- **Aromatherapy Diffusers:** These provide sensory stimulation through scent but are not designed to impart knowledge or skills.
- **Textured Sensory Blankets or Mats:** These are intended for comfort or relaxation, helping users engage with various textures but not designed for active learning or developmental outcomes.

## Key Differences...

- **Purpose:** Educational sensory products have a clear intent to support learning or developmental outcomes, whereas non-educational sensory products focus on entertainment, relaxation, or sensory regulation.
- **Engagement:** Educational products typically involve some form of guided engagement (e.g., tasks, learning prompts), while non-educational products tend to be more passive or open-ended.
- **Skills vs. Relaxation:** Educational products target specific skills (cognitive, motor, or social), while non-educational products often aim to soothe, entertain, or provide sensory stimulation without educational goals.

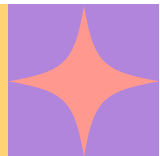
## What If There's Overlap?

Some products could be classified as both educational and non-educational, depending on how they're used. For instance, a tactile ball with different textures might be used as an educational tool to teach children about different materials or as a non-educational item for sensory play or relaxation.

In conclusion, the key to defining sensory products as educational or non-educational lies in the intent behind the product and the outcomes it encourages.

If the product is designed to facilitate learning or skill development, it's educational; if it's designed primarily for sensory enjoyment or emotional regulation without an explicit learning goal, it's non-educational.

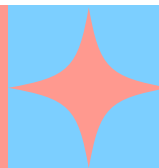
# Deadline Reminders



Reimbursement requests must be submitted by 10 PM on the 5th of each month through the parent dashboard; requests submitted by the deadline will be processed and reimbursed around the 25th of the same month.

Purchase requests must be submitted by 10 PM on the 15th of each month; requests submitted by the deadline will be processed by the end of the same month.

# Reach Out



**For questions, feedback, article ideas or story contributions, email [lauren@cfe-fund.org](mailto:lauren@cfe-fund.org)**