Using the Five Senses with Digital Photography
Level: Intermediate ESE

Description of Lesson	Students with learning disabilities often struggle with writing, particularly when it comes to describing feelings, ideas and objects. Children often describe an object using the most basic adjectives, naming size or color. The purpose of this lesson is to help students isolate each sense and search for items with that sense in mind. The goal is for students to begin describing objects with all their senses. Students will be assigned a sense, for example "smell". Students will then search for objects that represent the sense of smell. They will photograph this image and then use sensory words to describe that image.
Objectives	In this lesson, students will be able to: • Use a digital camera to capture images • Select objects that represent each of the five senses • Use sensory words to explain why each object represents that particular sense. • Display photographs for others to view
Materials	• Digital camera (1 per group) • Camera upload cables • Computer with MS PowerPoint • Various objects found around a school • Teacher made example: computer file-- senses.ppt

Procedures	1. Before beginning this activity, students should know:
	    • Basic computer skills
	    • Basic knowledge of using MS PowerPoint
	    • Tips for using a digital camera (provided in links below)
	    • The five senses
	    • What an adjective is and how it is used in writing and speaking
	2. Begin the lesson by diving students into groups of 3 or 4. Using the tips provided on the websites listed below, explain basic camera function to students. These main points should be highlighted
	    • How to hold a camera
	    • How to turn a camera on and off
	    • How to focus on a subject
	    • Making sure there is enough light
	    • Take more than one shot of each object
	    • Treat the camera with care
	3. Assign each group one of the 5 senses: Smell, Sight, Taste, Sound, and Touch
	4. Explain to the students that they are to look for objects around the school and inside the classroom that represent these senses.

	5. Students should find and photograph at least 5 objects.
	6. Provide students with sample objects as viewed in the teacher made example file-- senses.ppt
	7. When viewing the first example object, ask the students the following question, "What describing words come to your mind when you see a _____?"
	8. Guide students to focus on selecting words that relate to the target sense.
	9. Use additional examples if necessary.
	10. Allow student groups to begin their search. Be sure to review boundaries within the school, which classrooms can be visited, etc.
	11. When students return with images, upload images onto computer.
	12. Allow students to create a PowerPoint presentation using the pictures they have taken.
	13. Assign students to select 5-10 words that describe each object using the target sense. Include these words in the presentation.
	14. Display presentations for all students to see.
	Culminating Experience: Lead a group discussion on how these new words can be used to enhance writing and speaking.
Learning Extension	Assign students to write a short story using example objects and the new sensory words provided.
Benchmarks Met	Writing, Language Gr. 3-5
	B.1.e.4 – The student uses writing processes effectively to produce a final document through the use of technology.
	D.2.a—The student understands the significance and influence of language and that word choice can shape ideas, feelings, actions and morals.
	Diocese of St. Petersburg Standards and Benchmarks
Accommodations	Peer assistance, visual images, no time limit, keyboard used;
	Teachers may also provide camera tip cards/booklets for use around the school.
Tips for Using a Digital Camera	Learning to use the Digital Camera
	http://www.ncsu.edu/sciencejunction/route/usetech/digitalcamera/
	Top Ten Tips
	http://www.kodak.com/global/en/corp/top10tips/index.jhtml
	Beginning Photography Tips
	http://www.betterphoto.com/exploring/tips.asp
	Photography Ideas and Tips for Kids
	http://www.essortment.com/photographyide_rrmq.htm
Assessment	Students will be graded out of a possible 30 points:
	• 2 points for each image correctly photographed (max. 10)
	• 2 points for providing 5-10 sensory words for each image (max. 10)
	• 5 points for completing PowerPoint presentation
	• 5 points for working cooperatively as a group
	Additional photographs and sensory words may be counted towards extra credit.