Messy Play Texture Hierarchy

Easy			Challenging
 Dry textures fall away and the child can control contact with the texture. Feathers Shredded paper 	Dry textures that mostly fall away, some particles or bits may stick to the hand. Damp Sand Glitter 	Wet textures that stick to the had but the child can easily break contact with the texture (e.g. by lightly wiping) Foam (e.g. light shaving foam)	Wet textures that stick to the hand and the child has least control when breaking contact with the texture (e.g. by repeatedly wiping). Foam (e.g. heavy shaving foam)
 Dry Pasta / spaghetti Dry Rice Dry porridge oats String Lace Fabric squares Fur fabric Dry sand Beads Plastic items Sea shells Coconut husks Dry lentils / beans Dried flowers Hay / straw Leaves Cotton wool 	 Sequins Touching mixture of corn flour mixed with water. Cold wet pasta / spaghetti Wet rice Silly string Chalks Playdough Compost 	 Water Wet sand Wet noodles Wet lentils Baked beans Jelly Mashed potato Ice cubes 	 Glue Melted chocolate Mashed banana Dripping mixture of corn flour mixed with water on the skin Mud Angel delight Porridge Custard Yoghurt Ice cream Finger Paint / poster paint Tinned Spaghetti
			Items may also include additional properties at this end of the scale (e.g. ice cream is wet, sticky and cold)

© Steve Rose, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, Sense, 2007.

Food Play Texture Hierarchy

Easy				
 Firm and dry: Dry textures fall away and the child can control contact with the texture. No brushing or wiping is required 	 Soft and Dry: Dry textures that mostly fall away, some particles or bits may stick to the hand, Brushing residue required to break contact 	 Wet: Wet textures that maintain contact with the hand but the child can easily break contact with the texture Requires wiping to break contact with texture. 	 Wet and sticky: Wet textures that stick to the hand and the child has least control when breaking contact with the texture, Requires repeated wiping to break residue away. 	
 Marzipan Ready roll icing Broken pancakes Cereals – cornflakes, rice krispies, cocoa pops etc. Uncooked noodles (hard) raw vegetables (either whole or in chunks – but dry!) liquorice snack foods – skips wotsits, 	 Icing sugar Cocoa powder Dry angel delight mix Dry porridge oats Granulated sugar Sherbert cake decorations – hundreds and thousands, strands etc 	 Water Cooked noodles Cooked lentils Cooked pasta / spaghetti Cooked rice Jelly Mashed potato Ice cubes piping icing Custard Yoghurt Baked beans puréed fruit and vegetables 	 Melted chocolate Mashed banana Angel delight Porridge Ice cream Tinned Spaghetti chocolate spread jam, lemon curd etc. ketchup sweet and sour sauce 	
			properties at this end of the scale (e.g. ice cream is wet, sticky and cold)	

© Steve Rose, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, Sense, 2009