Our senses are very powerful; they allow us to build a realistic understanding of the world. What we perceive, with the help of our senses, can make us experience a broad spectrum of emotions. Some sensations, like smell, can trigger our memory and take us back, even for a brief moment, to another place and time.

Sometimes it's the smell of fresh flowers that makes us think of playing outside when we were kids. Perhaps the scent of a particular perfume reminds you of a loved one and makes you smile. Plenty of people love waking up to the smell of fresh coffee, and sometimes, merely the scent of baked goods can trigger hunger.

The Power of Smell
One of the most powerful properties of smell is that we learn to associate it with our past experiences, and we are therefore compelled to experience certain emotions. Since one of our objectives here is that you become able to reprogram yourself and associate sleep with a pleasant, relaxing time, using a bit of aromatherapy can go a long way.

Also, when you smell something you like, you breathe in more deeply, and your body slightly relaxes, as a consequence.

Is It Enough?
It's important to note that the help of fragrance alone, won't be enough to make you fall asleep instantly, rather than toss and turn. However, it will help you relax, if used correctly. The same is true for everything you've learned to practice so far. Naturally, you won't fall fast asleep by just cutting down your caffeine intake, by shutting the blinds, relaxing, or imagining a serene setting.

The key here is combination and persistence - when you combine all of the elements and practice them consistently, you will create a comforting environment for yourself, where it is easy to get a good night's sleep. With time, your brain will become conditioned and associate all these things with sleep, which means that you'll get some much-deserved rest.

Soothing Fragrances
Without any further ado, here are some fragrances that have been known to have soothing properties:
- Chamomile
- Sage
- Lavender
- Jasmine
- Vanilla
- Rose
- Apple

What is more, some scents have been known to stimulate or energize the body, so while you can choose any other scent you enjoy, try to avoid these in your nightly routine:
- Citruses, such as lemon and orange
- Rosemary
- Basil
- Ginger
- Peppermint

Can Scents Do the Job by Themselves?
While some swear to the efficacy of aromatherapy, on its own, there aren't any scientific studies, which prove that scents alone are enough to soothe you or help you fall asleep. However, scent does influence our nervous system, and so you can combine conditioning with a pleasant, calming scent, to achieve quality results.

The way to do that is by incorporating a smell, into your other relaxation practices, such as progressive muscle relaxation or guided imagery. You can also carry a scent with you, and give it a whiff, whenever you feel happy and relaxed. It will take some time, but this way your brain will learn to associate that scent with peacefulness, and you will, therefore, become conditioned to feel more at ease, and have an easier time falling asleep, whenever you smell that aroma.