

*Language & Literacy in the*

# *Sand/Sensory Table*



## **Useful Material Possibilities**

### **Sand Table:**

- Dry
- Wet
- Moldable
- Treated sand-type materials (such as Moon Sand, etc.)

### *Things to consider:*

- Allergies
- Clean-up
- Sanitation
- Storage, if needed

### **Additional Sensory Suggestions:**

- Masa
- Corn Starch
- Uncooked Beans\*
- Uncooked Rice, Tabouli or Quinoa\*
- Uncooked macaroni or other pasta\*

*\*Be cautious about using food in the sensory table with children, even in the uncooked form. In some populations, this may be considered a wasteful use of food.*

- Playdough
- Gak
- Putty
- Other forms of dough (such as Foam Dough, etc.)
- Modeling clay or dough
- Cornstarch Colloid

### **Water Table:**

- Water ☺
- Colored water
- Soapy Water
- Snow
- Fake snow
- Ice cubes

*Things to consider:*

- Sanitation
- Disposal
- Replenishment (when necessary)

### **Language and Literacy Ideas**

#### **Phonemic/Phonological Awareness:**

- Constructing a model of a portion or object in a nursery rhyme (ex: Miss Muffett's tuffet or bowl or curds and whey)
- Recreate nursery rhyme using materials and figures. Recite nursery rhyme using props
- Hide rhyming word pictures in dry sand. Find the matching pictures
- Build 2-3 items that begin with the same sound (ex: boy, ball, bat)
- Identify rhyming words in a short story or rhyme. Build one of the rhyming items
- After building a project out of materials, identify the beginning sound of the item(s)

#### **Letter Recognition:**

- Hide letters of the alphabet in sand. Name each letter when it is found
- Hide magnetic letters in sand and find the letters using a magnet wand
- Form letters of the alphabet out of wet sand
- Form letters of the alphabet out of playdough
- Use alphabet cookie cutters with playdough or gak
- Draw alphabet shape in wet sand and fill with water
  
- Float foam letters in water, fish them out with tongs or ladle and name them
- Float magnetic letters in water and using a magnet attached to a string, fish out the letters and name them
- Float letters in water and using a ladle, fish out two letters that are next to each other in the alphabet
- Create letters of the alphabet using dry beans on a tray
- Recreate letters in the environment using molding materials

#### **Print Awareness:**

- Create your favorite part of a story read
- Retell a story using props and materials in the sand or water table
- Read part of a story and then create a story ending using wet sand or playdough

#### **Listening Comprehension:**

- Instead of asking questions, respond to a story by creating a favorite part of the story with wet sand or playdough

- Create three parts of a story in the sand table and indicate what came first, next and last
- With a partner, create parts of a story just read and use the creation to retell the story to others
- Create your own story using playdough and tell the story to a friend
- Create an additional part of a story using materials in the sand/water table

### **Writing:**

- Practice writing letters with your finger using a thin layer of sand on a tray
- Draw the alphabet letters with your finger in wet sand
- Create a self-portrait using playdough
- Using a large dropper or baster, write name with water on sand or colored paper
- Form letters of the alphabet using playdough or gak then write the letter on a paper with a crayon or pencil

### **Oral Language:**

- Explain the creation made in the sand table or playdough tray
- Explain the process that happens in the pouring center with water, snow or ice