

# Playing with Sand

Playing in a sandbox is a favorite toddler activity. It isn't necessary to have a backyard sandbox at home if you don't have the space. A large plastic tub or storage container makes a great sandbox. Clean sand can be purchased at a toy store or local hardware store (such as Home Depot or Lowes). Both wet and dry sand are fun to play with.

Toddlers love to pour and scoop. Provide several containers of varying shapes and sizes along with spoons, small shovels, and funnels. Offer a few items each time changing the containers from time to time to encourage exploration.

Toddlers also have fun discovering items such as shells, little toy animals, people, and other objects you have buried in the sand.

Wet sand is fun to squeeze and mold. You can help your child make patterns in the wet sand. You can use Popsicle sticks, sticks and leaves from the yard, little rakes, and combs to make different patterns. Use different shaped containers to build houses, castles and create other shapes.



When your child is a little older, they can practice drawing letters, numbers and shapes in the sand.

You can also use other items such as dried beans, rice, or bird seed in the container.