

Activity Sheet

Ocean sensory tray

Students will have fun interacting with this ocean sensory tray, experiencing different scents, sounds, textures and colours. This activity supports motor skill development, problem solving skills and will assist in learning sensory attributes. An optional addition to this activity is to play ocean sounds through speakers and encourage discussion of what the children can hear, such as crashing waves and seagull cries.

You'll need:

- Large plastic tray - an under-bed storage tray is ideal
- Play sand (alternatively, use uncooked rice)
- Small objects in a variety of textures to bury in sand and place underwater

Examples might include:

- ocean animal toys
- plastic plants (e.g used in fishtanks)
- shells
- coins
- old costume jewellery (pirate treasure!)
- feathers

Preparation:

Pour sand into half of the tray. Place some shells at the edge of the sand to act as a barrier between the sand and water. Slowly pour water in the other half of the tray. Add the objects to the tray, burying some in the sand and placing some underwater.

Play:

Have children close their eyes and find something in the tray, asking them to describe what they feel. Drawing in the sand, scooping, pouring and swapping items from the water to the shore (and back) are other fun activities here. Reach in and explore! Other options include using sand or water alone, or replacing these with uncooked rice for a less messy experience.

