

## Sensory Table Ideas

The sensory table provides valuable opportunities for students to explore, experiment and discover. New vocabulary and concepts are developed when children are provided with a variety of materials to manipulate and explore. Use the follow ideas and suggestions to keep your children excited and interested in learning about the world around them.

- Add bubble wrap, old cars and a little water to your sensory table. The children can drive their cars over the bubble wrap to make a popping noise.
- Make the water table a garden. Fill with topsoil and add flowers or seeds. Add gardening tools such as trowels, cups, and pails. Plastic/silk flowers can also be used for a “ready-made” garden.
- Add tearless baby shampoo...bubbles can be made with wire whisks or a hand cranked mixer.
- Add shaving cream, instant mashed potatoes, cornmeal, grits, dry beans of any variety, rice, unusual shaped/colored noodles, oatmeal, flour, dried corn, and buttons. Have children sort the dry items into containers.
- During very hot weather put ice cubes in the water table. Let the children experience the cold and melting ice. Make ice cubes and freeze fun things inside such as small dinosaurs, jelly worms, counting pieces, plastic bugs/insects. Ice balls can be made from freezing water balloons overnight. Tear off and discard balloons before adding ice balls to table.
- Add a turkey baster, empty squirt bottles, and funnels. Discuss terms like: empty, full, more and less.
- Make “ooey goey stuff” for the water table. Recipe: Liquid starch and white glue (mix equal parts of liquid starch and white glue until it becomes “blubbery.”
- Add water with wiggly fishing worms. Children will giggle while grasping the slimy worms!
- Have children pan for “gold.” Place a layer of sand at the bottom of the sensory table and enough water to cover the sand by three inches. Add tin pie plates and pyrite or small pebbles to the sand. Have the children pan for the “gold.”
- Add potting soil and live earthworms.
- Use the table for washing baby dolls and dishes.
- Use cornstarch and water to make “goop.”
- Add sea animals in blue water.
- Add fake gems to the sand and dig for treasure.
- Add bird seed with different sizes of sifters and sieves.
- Add a tree limb to represent a log and different sized and colored plastic frogs.
- Spray paint dried lima beans gold and use in sand for searching for gold.
- Create a pond using plastic fish, frogs, lizards and lily pads cut from craft foam.
- Make an assortment of funnels by cutting plastic bottles in half. Cover the cut edge with masking tape.
- When studying measuring, place plastic bottles of varying sizes in the sensory table. Draw several lines on each bottle with different colors of permanent marker. Have the children fill the bottles to the line and then compare which has more, less, or equal amounts.

**PROPS FOR SENSORY TABLE**

**Sand (or other dry materials)**

Muffin tins  
 Cookie cutters  
 Seashells  
 Feathers  
 Sifters  
 Tweezers  
 Shovels  
 Molds  
 Spray bottles  
 Small cars and trucks  
 Sticks and seeds  
 Rolling pins  
 Rakes  
 Plastic animals  
 Misters

**Sand and Water**

Marbles  
 Pebbles  
 Seashells  
 String  
 Funnels  
 Pots and pans  
 Buckets and bowls  
 Measuring cups  
 Measuring spoons  
 Scoops and strainers  
 Ladles and sieves  
 Empty film containers  
 Corks and nesting cups  
 Small containers  
 Dinosaur props  
 Plastic worms  
 PVC pipes w/connectors

**Water (or other liquid materials)**

Paintbrushes  
 Spray bottles  
 Food coloring  
 Siphons  
 Waterwheels  
 Boats  
 Squeeze bottles  
 Egg beaters  
 Tongs  
 Whisks  
 Eye droppers  
 Plastic straws  
 Vegetable dyes  
 Sponges  
 Marine animals  
 Small fish nets  
 Fish cut from foam pieces  
 Scented extracts

This list is not exhaustive nor is it intended to endorse specific products or suppliers.

**Please refer to GELDS (Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards) for specific standards and indicators.**