

Sand

Sifting, scooping, pouring, mixing, and burying objects in the sand provides tactile stimulation for their hands and fingers. It also encourages them to explore different textures and temperatures of the sand.

Before you start:

- Check the tide.
This activity is best done when the tide is on its way out.

Resources:

- Paper
- Magnifying glass
- Buckets
- Digging tools

Sand gets everywhere, in your hair, your clothes and always into whatever you are eating on the beach. Have you ever wondered where it comes from?

Sand is made up of small, loose pieces of rock, soil, shells of sea creatures, minerals, precious stones and even the remains of living things. The sand on every beach is unique, it tells the story of how the physical landscape was formed over millions of years as well as the history of the local area. The colour of the sand is linked to the geology of the area.

Rain, wind and waves batter our coastline, eroding our cliffs. Bits of rock break off from the cliff sides, which are carried away by the tide. Mixed with shells, the action of the sea breaks them down into smaller and smaller pieces. Eventually they form grains of sand.

Questions to ask:

- What is the sand of the north east composed of?
Limestone, quartz, coal dust, shell
- What is sand? Where does it come from?
Use a magnifying glass.
- Feel the sand between your fingers, does it feel hot or cold?
- Dig down deeper is it warmer or colder?
- Is the sand wet or dry? How do you know?

- Can you make a sandcastle using dry sand? Is it better to make a sand castle out of wet or dry sand?
When sand is wet, it is better able to hold its shape. The water coats each grain of sand, forming little bridges that helps to hold it together.

Fun learning activities:

- Create a sand creature- crab, octopus, fish. Can you make a home for a sea creature to live in?
- Create a storyboard. A storyboard tells a story. Try using pebbles or other natural materials from the beach.
- Make a sand angel. Lie on your back on the beach and flap your arms up and down to make the angel wings.
- Dig for buried treasure. Hide a variety of objects in a marked out area beforehand.

Art and craft activities:

- Using pebbles or natural materials crate a piece of sand art. This can be 2-d or 3-d (crabs, ships, octopus, dolphin).
- Make a sand picture
 - Draw a picture on a piece paper using glue.
 - Cover the glue with sand. Leave to dry.
 - Gently shake the excess sand off the paper.
 - Take the sand picture home to display.



Stories to share:

Bea and the Sea- Jo Byatt A story about a child who dislikes sand.