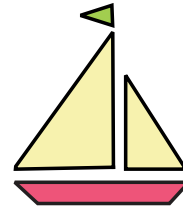


Exploration Stations for At the Seashore Theme Week



Choose 4 to 6 of the following stations to set up for At the Seashore.

1. Play Dough Station:

Children make a beach scene. Roll or push uncolored playdough out over the play surface. In the center of the table, tape down a sheet of blue cellophane for water. Have on hand a variety of tiny objects: toy boats, paper umbrellas, small seashells or shell pasta. Make tiny beach towels from old washclothes. Children will enjoy pushing items into the playdough 'sand' to create a beach scene. Small toy people can add to the fun.

Recipe for Homemade Play Dough

1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 scant tbsp. cooking oil
1 cup water

Mix all ingredients in medium sauce pan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until lumps form and surface begins to look dry. Cool. Knead, adding more flour as necessary. Divide into four portions. Add a few drops of food color: paste type available in craft stores yields a brilliant color, Kool-aid will color and add scent. Knead food coloring into dough. Play!

2. Texture Table:

Children explore with sand or gravel. Sand Play. Fill water table or large plastic container such as an under-bed storage boxes with sterilized, dust-free playground sand available at hardware stores. Supply a variety of plastic containers with lids and kitchen implements. An old sheet spread under the play area can make clean-up easier.

Gravel. For a fun alternative to sand, fill the water table with aquarium gravel and a small amount of water. Children will enjoy the sound and feel of the gravel as they scoop and build. Small toy construction vehicles can add to the fun.

3. Puzzle Station:

Seashell Sort. Make 4-6 different puzzles by printing the seashell pictures on page 28. Use heavy paper such as Hammermill Copy Plus Card for Copiers and Laser or Inkjet Printers. To make the puzzles, cut the picture of each seashell into simple shapes that the children will be able to re-assemble. Place each puzzle in a separate envelope. Children can also make a puzzle to take home. Provide crayons to color, scissors to cut shells into a few pieces (for very young children you may want to draw a quick pencil line to guide cutting), and small baggies for taking puzzles home. Provide copies of the Water Cycle Maze on Lesson Activity sheet, page 25.

4. Dress-up Station:

Pirates! Provide the following simple pirate costume pieces and accessories and stand back to watch the fun: bandanas, eye patches made of black cardboard or felt and elastic thread, striped t-shirts, old blue jeans cut and frayed just below the knee, Jolly Roger flag, cardboard telescope, treasure box, dress-up jewelry treasure. See Lesson Activity sheet, page 37.

Continued on page 6