

Continued: At the Seashore
Exploration Stations

5. Reading Station:

Have on hand a variety of books and pictures related to the theme. Supply writing materials for older children, who may want to make up their own story to share during story time. Include the “PrintMe-FoldMe” book for each child. See Lesson Activity sheets, pages 38 and 39.

6. Art Station:

Create sponge stamp beach blankets. Display a few brightly colored, patterned beach towels at this station to stimulate creative energy. Provide children with large pieces of paper. Grocery bags cut open are perfect. Show them how to fringe the ends. Then decorate with simple stamps and tempera paint. Encourage older children to work with patterns. To make stamps, cut kitchen sponges into ocean shapes: a whale, a seashell, a starfish, a beach ball. Squeeze small amounts of tempera paint onto plastic plates. Show children how to rub sponge in the paint, squeegee off excess paint on the edge of the plate and then stamp several times on the paper. Children will enjoy sprinkling a little white glitter SAND on wet paint.

7. Kitchen Station:

Have a picnic at the Beach. Provide baskets for picnic food, play food and/or clean empty food boxes, resealable baggies, plastic plates, cups, utensils, a picnic blanket or beach towel. Large brightly colored beach shorts and tops, baby dolls and a beach ball add to the fun. Encourage children to pack their picnic, hike to the beach, then set-up their picnic.

8. Construction Station: Build a Boat:

Collect several medium sized boxes in which a child or two could fit, or one large appliance-sized box. Supply a variety of items to encourage imaginative boat play: Short lengths of thick rope, cardboard anchors, small flags, rubber or cardboard fish in buckets, fish nets, pieces of old sheets for sails stapled onto yardsticks, cardboard tubes for telescopes, and so on. Have on hand a few rolls of duct tape and offer the occasional adult suggestion or helping hand.

Gazing Glasses

To make gazing glasses, start with a pair of children’s sunglasses and glue on sparkles, stickers, curly ribbon or a cut-out such as the one shown here.

