



Learning and playing with DIRT



Drawing and writing

Draw letters or numbers in the dirt or sand with a stick.

Can you write your name? What numbers can you write? What other words can you make? Add early mathematical concepts with simple addition, subtraction, patterns and shapes. Can you add shapes together to make a picture?

Create art

In the sand at the beach or your backyard sandpit, make sand people using a variety of objects. Use seaweed for hair, shells or pebbles for facial features, sticks or driftwood for limbs.

Maybe you could create a family and add a pet? Build a house or castle for them to live in. How many eyes do you need? What are the body parts called? What else could you add to your creation? What happens if water washes over it?



Mud Cafe

Gather some recycled containers and its time for pretend cooking with mud or sand. Add some texture of different natural objects to enrich the sensory experience.

What delicious food can you make? Can you find other natural ingredients to add flavour to your creation? What does it feel like with water? How does it feel different with the other natural objects?

Create a waterway

Create a dam in mud or sand and see if it will hold water in. Add rivers and waterways to the dam and include tunnels to connect them together. Use different objects to create the tunnels, such as pipes and rocks.

What happens if you use different sized pipes? How can you hold the water in? How can you stop it leaking? What other resources can you use to create your waterways and dam?



Mud play will give the children opportunities to develop their social skills as these activities support children to play with their friends or family.

Through this hands-on sensory experience there is also some great connections to STEM - science, technology, engineering and maths through problem solving and inquiry-based play.

