

# Leap Into Science Week 2022: "Make Sense of Our World!"

## Today's Activity: Homemade Kinetic Sand!

What is so amazing about kinetic sand? You can build and stack it with ease, just like adding water to sand at the beach. Kinetic sand can be bought at the store or made in a variety of ways. Having the children help mix the ingredients is a fun activity in itself. This recipe is non-toxic, safe, and even edible! Let your little scientists pour and mix the ingredients. As they work, you could ask questions about what they think will happen as each part is added. How does each ingredient feel? When the

mixture is complete, the children can build and shape it however they like. With older children you can talk about how the syrup is helping the "sand" stick together. If the children have their own mixing bowl and ingredients, they could also discuss the smell and taste of each part as it is added. Simply throw away when done, and have the children wash their hands to prevent spreading germs. Have older children help you in the cleaning process. This is another opportunity to talk about

texture and how soap helps break down the mess and get rid of germs!



### Materials Needed:

- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup cornmeal.
- mix in 1 Tbsp. oil (any kind)
- 1 Tbsp. corn syrup.

### Infant/toddler recipe:

- 1 cup of infant rice cereal
- 3 Tbsp. coconut oil

### Books to check out today!

- What can I feel by Annie Kubler (Infant/Tot)
- Let's Explore the Sense of Touch by Candice F. Ransom
- Never Touch a Porcupine by Rosie Greening
- Soft and Smooth, Rough and Bumpy: A Book About Touch by Dana Meachen Rau

**Please Note:** Kinetic sand provided is not edible! This is premade, store-bought sand. This would not be suitable for children under the age of 3 years. Homemade, edible ingredients are recommended for infant/toddlers.

### WV Early Learning Standards:

#### Pre-K Standards:

##### Science as Inquiry: Utilization of Inquiry

SC.PK.5 Identify the five senses and use them to make observations

SC.PK.7 Engage in scientific talk by utilizing words (e.g., observe, compare, contrast, measure, reflect, predict, plan).

#### Infant/Toddler Standards:

**Approaches to Learning: Curiosity**-Exploring with the senses

**Creative Expression: Visual Arts**-Notices difference in textures

**Cognitive: Cause and Effect**-Exploring and Repeating actions

**Motor: Fine Motor**-using fingers, hands; gaining control of eyes, hands, movement



We Touch With Our Hands!



## Instant Fake Snow!



No Snow? No Problem! Don't wait on Mother Nature to make your snow, make it yourself! Just follow the simple recipes below for instant snow that is the perfect consistency for building mini snowmen, snowballs and even small igloos!

- \* **Baking soda and shaving cream.** Mix together 1 pound of baking soda, and slowly add shaving cream until you reach the perfect snowy consistency. Let kids knead the fake snow with their hands until it's all combined.
- \* **Baking soda and water.** Pour 1 cup of baking soda into a bowl, and add water one tablespoon at a time. Use a fork or a whisk to stir the two ingredients together, adding more water as you go. When it's light and powdery, it's ready to play with!
- \* **Baking soda and conditioner.** For this recipe, be sure to use white conditioner so your fake snow looks just like the real stuff. Start with 1/2 cup of conditioner, and use a fork to stir in about 3 cups of baking soda. This snow packs very well and is great for making snowmen!
- \* **Shaving cream and cornstarch.** Mix equal parts shaving cream (foam, not gel) and cornstarch for this recipe, which makes a dense, foamy snow that is very easy to mold.
- \* **Cornstarch and lotion.** Mix together equal parts cornstarch and lotion for this crumbly snow recipe. If you're looking for a more powdery snow, add slightly less lotion than cornstarch.

**Bonus tips!** To give your fake snow extra flair, try adding glitter or even essential oils. You can also pop your fake snow in the freezer to make it cold to the touch just like real snow. Provide kids with cookie cutters, plastic utensils and snowman decorating supplies for maximum fun.



## Sensory Walk



A sensory path can be made in many different ways: containers filled with objects of different textures, framed walkways outdoors filled with rocks and natural materials, homemade projects children can use indoors. Different textured papers and flat materials could be used for infants and toddlers who aren't as stable on their feet. The children can explore new experiences and materials they may not otherwise come in contact with. Start a conversation with your children on how the materials feel and help them find new words to describe them!

### Wet or Dry?

Have children touch a variety of different fabrics that are wet (water) and dry.

Have children guess whether they are wet or dry.




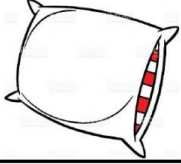


### Sensory Table

Create a circular opening the size of a hand on a large shoebox lid. Inside the box place different items such as a ball, fur, plastic fork, block, Lego, tissue paper, sand paper, a toy car, etc. Close the box with the lid. Let children stick one hand inside the box, choose an item, and guess what the item is by feeling it.

## Question of the Day!

Is it Hard or Soft?

Using pictures or real objects, you can ask the children to say if it is hard or soft? With infants and toddlers you can say whether it is hard or soft as they explore it, and it is a great opportunity to explain how throwing hard objects isn't safe.

OBJECTS	HARD	SOFT
	HARD	SOFT
	HARD	SOFT
	HARD	SOFT
	HARD	SOFT

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