

Plant Some Big Fun

Farm Sensory Bins:

Outstanding in their Field?

HOLLY RIDGE CENTER - Baby and toddler farmers are raving about Farm Sensory Bins. One baby reported, "I really get the feel for Old MacDonald and what he went through with my farm sensory bin!" Other babies and toddlers have indicated that the farm sensory bins let them scoop and pour, not to mention dump. "My fine motor skills have never been better!"

Sensory bins can support a wide variety of pre-academic concepts such as:

- Oral language development
- Creativity
- Imagination
- Capacity
- Volume
- Fine motor skills
- Measurement
- Critical thinking skills

This simple activity lets babies and toddlers touch interesting new materials. Plan to hang around while they explore. Sensory bins can be fun outside or inside with a sheet under the bin to catch what escapes.



Build fine motor coordination and an excitement for exploring new sensations with this easy sensory bin.

It takes time for toddlers to learn how to play at the bin, but they will get better.

Give them a large area to play. Don't start with something messy.

SENSORY BIN CHEAT SHEET

What to try and when to try it

18 months - 2.5 years old (aka the edible items list)

Rice
Cooked Spaghetti
Cheerios
Rice Krispies
Water
Corn Meal
Crushed Ice Cubes
Edible Water Beads
Flour
Jell-O
Pudding
Oobleck/Gak
Whipped Cream

2.5 years old - 4 years old (aka the not edible list)

Dried Beans
Pom Pom Balls
Water Beads
Ice Cubes
Chick Peas
Mud
Bubbles
Slime
Play Dough
Dried Pasta
Shredded Paper
Shaving Cream

Always supervise sensory bins and use good judgement

BUSY TODDLER

<https://busytoddler.com/2016/12/introducing-toddlers-to-sensory-bins/>

Submitted by Liddy Paasch

The scoop of the day

The latest updates to get you through the day

Here's what you need to get your farm sensory bin started:

- A tub or a shallow plastic container; actual sensory tables
- Corn kernels (popping corn)
- Small farm animals
- Other small farm toys and trucks
- Scoops
- Cups

To set your farm sensory bin up,

Step 1: Pour the corn kernels into the bin

Step 2: Add farm animals and toys.

That's it. Your child adds the rest, by which I mean, imagination, curiosity, and creativity. Sensory bins offer an opportunity to be successful regardless of language or cognitive development. Open exploration, where there is no right or wrong answer, is sure to build confidence. Little children can practice playing beside a friend or a sibling. This quiet activity promotes trading or eventually sharing toys and materials.

Other farm-theme related sensory bins can just as much fun. Instead of corn kernels, how about chocolate pudding? Maybe a shallow dish of water could be a pond for ducks to swim in or for horses to get a drink. Instead of dirt, grind up some Cheerios into sand.

It's true that sensory bins can be messy. Who am I kidding? They WILL be messy. Plan for it. Consider putting your sensory bin outside or on a hard floor surface, like tile, for easy clean up. Have a small broom and dustpan close by, and show your child how sweep up the mess.

Establish some simple, non-negotiable rules for the farm sensory bin:

1. We do not eat the sensory bin.
2. We do not dump the sensory bin.

Give a warning or reminder, and then remove the sensory to time out for three minutes. They can try again. Remember, they are learning the rules.

Have fun. That's always the bottom line. If you can, send us pictures of you and your child playing down at the farm!