

OCEAN Life sensory bin – Edible

Supporting our children with noticing the world around them can seem challenging at times. Being able to see the world around you can take practice. Giving our children a chance to explore and discover while at home will give them the confidence to explore as they go out into the world. PLAY is our children's work.

[Edible Ocean Sensory Bin Treasure Hunt - Team Cartwright \(team-cartwright.com\)](http://team-cartwright.com)



Remember – **We model fun to our children. Play with them and bring your best silly self. They will respond and want more.**

Materials Needed:

- Blue Jello (at least two packs)
- Cool Whip (or other whipped cream)
- Graham Crackers
- Shallow Container
- Food items to play with – Teddy Grahams, goldfish crackers, cheerios, star shape fruit or crackers, etc.
- Toys – boats, animals, fish, shovel, scoops, cups, bucket, beach toys
- **I don't recommend using jewels. You want to use all food safe items for this activity to ensure your infant/toddler does not get confused about what can go in their mouth.**

Since this is an edible activity, you will want to be throwing the experience away after you've played to keep bacteria from growing in between play sessions.

Inside –

If you choose to set up inside, you may want to lay down a blanket/tablecloth, table, high chair for ease of clean up. Sit with your child and model how to play, explore, dig, dump. Use simple words to model functional language – such as in/out, scoop/dump, dig/pat along with concepts like hide and seek or object permanence by burying a toy and exploring to find it.

Outside –

If you choose to go outside clean up can be a bit easier. Again, plan to play with your child to model how to engage with the activity. Set up a blanket on the grass, a low table to stand at, and have some wet washcloths available for easy wash-up.

Developmentally this activity encourages language development through this play, such as labeling objects and using adjectives to describe items and actions. Also, giving choices and waiting for your child to respond with a gesture (even if the gesture is a slight eye glance in one direction), sound or word gives them control of their play looks.

This activity can also support social and emotional development. For example, as a time to connect with your child, explore and know you are there to connect with and support them. You're building trust by interacting, reading cues, and being part of the play/adventure.