

Recycling / Five Senses

About the Unit

Children explore capacity measurement as they do crafts involving recycled, familiar household materials that engage the senses.

Ages 2 and Up:

- Make shakers with rice and beans;
- Make bubble soap, then blow bubbles with wands they create themselves;
- Mix up colorful and scented play dough;
- Experiment with oil, water, and their own lava lamps.



Tornado in a bottle!

Under 2s:

- Use home-made shape sorters;
- Make and squish play dough balls;
- Fill spoons and cups with play dough.

Themes

Recycling / Caring for Our Environment / Make Your Own! Children use recycled and familiar household materials. They learn that everyday materials can be put to good use again and again!

Five senses. The crafts in the unit involve things to see and observe (like lava lamps after you shake them!), hear (shakers), touch (play dough), and smell (scented play dough). Make and bake edible play dough with food-grade coloring and flavoring for the fifth sense, taste.

Math highlight: Capacity measurement (cups, tablespoons, teaspoons)

As children are doing the activities, help them learn math by:

- Using math words, such as empty, full, half-full, less, more, same. (all ages)
- Encouraging children to explain *how they know* if you've measured correctly. (2 and Up)
- Asking children to compare the various containers they are using: "How are they the same? How are they different?" (2 and Up)

Reminders

- Use the activities in order, one each day for 2 and Up (1A, 1B, 2A ...) and one per week for Under 2s.
- Copies of activities for 2 and Up and Under 2s go home in color each week.
- Model the "Talk About" sections. These build mathematical thinking and engage children in exploring and discovering math.
- Use at least one Storytime Connection (Read Math Together /Talk Math Together) with a book of your choice. Send them home in color.
- Post Center Activities. Each month focuses on a different number and shape.

Color copies and printouts help make math friendly and fun.

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Materials

Ages 2 and Up

Per program

- Clear plastic container with secure lid (two per child, use a variety of containers)
- Uncooked rice (enough for 1/2 cup per child)
- Dried beans (enough for 1/2 cup per child)
- Scoop for rice and beans
- Funnel for pouring rice and beans
- Strong tape and scissors (for adult)
- Two 2-cup measuring cups
- Water (enough for 3-4 cups per child)
- Tablespoon measure
- Teaspoon measure
- Spoon for mixing
- Dish soap (enough for 4 T. per child)
- Sugar (enough for 2 tsp. per child)
- Yogurt cup or plastic cup (2 per child)
- Pipe cleaners (2 per child)
- Plastic straws (3 per child)
- Rubber bands (1 per child)
- Flour (enough for 2 cups per child)
- Salt (enough for 3/4 cup per child)
- Vegetable oil (enough for about 1 1/4 cup per child)
- Several small bottles of food coloring
- Several tubes of glitter (enough for 2 T. per child)
- Bowls or small bins for flour, salt, rice, and beans (so children can measure amounts they need)
- Plastic bags (2 per child)
- Empty water bottles (6-8 oz) with secure caps (2 per child)

Advance preparation

- Cut plastic straws in half

Under 2s

Per program

- “Bank” made from an oat container: cut a slot in the lid about 1” square;
- “Bank” made from an oat container: cut a slot in the lid about 1/2” wide and 2” long;
- Assorted objects, some that fit through the slots in each bank and some a little too large to fit (e.g., straws, crayons, pompoms in different sizes)
- Play dough
- A few containers in different sizes (yogurt cup, spoon, etc.)



Advance preparation

- Make the “banks”