



FIZZING OCEAN WORLD

Materials you need:

Please note that preferably you need to make the bicarb balls/shells the day before.

- 2 Cups Bi-carb soda
- 6 tablespoons water (you may need more)
- Small squeeze bottles (sauce or tomato paste bottles work well if you don't have any other bottles) filled with vinegar and a sprinkle of blue edicol dye.
- Small plastic sea creatures or similar (you will be enclosing in a bicarb ball)
- A large tub or water tray.
- Some shells and pebbles, larger sea creatures if you have them.

Setup for play:

- The day before play mix the bicarb and water in a bowl using your hands. The mix will be crumbly but should hold together if pressed firmly.
- Pick up a handful of the dough and press a small sea figure into the middle. Press more dough on top and shape firmly until the figure is enclosed and ball is holding together – you can try and press into the shape of a shell but the children really won't mind either way! Gently place on a tray and leave for a few hours before play so it dries. Ideally overnight.
- On the day of play set up your water tub, add some blue and green glass gems or pebbles, some more sea creatures and real shells. Gently place the bicarb surprise balls into the tub as well.
- Fill the squeeze bottles with vinegar and show the children what happens when they squirt onto the balls. It will fizz, crumble and reveal the toy inside!
- When all of the balls have fizzed add a bucket of blue water and allow the children to create and imagine on their own.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children experiment, create and imagine with this small world they are learning to:

- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Use their senses to explore the natural environment
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Express themselves creatively
- Manipulate objects to explore motion, cause and effect
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and hands on investigation
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore natural materials
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Use their imagination to explore real life spaces

Extending the play:

- Spread a thin layer of bicarb soda over the bottom of a tray. Use different coloured vinegar in squeeze bottles to create different patterns.
- Take the sea creatures out to the sandpit and add some buckets and bowls of water – let little imaginations decide how they will use the items in their play.

