



DINOSAUR SMALL WORLD

Materials you need:

Setting up a small world invitation should always be a flexible process that you can modify to suit what you have to hand. This is where your natural and open ended materials collection comes in handy and saves time!

- Bowls and pots to turn upside down
- Hardcover books
- Greenery, twigs and bark from the garden
- Material scraps or scarves
- Dinosaur figurines
- Gravel or small pebbles, sand, dirt
- Grassy area outside or a large tub, tray or mat to define area indoors.

Setup for play:

Now it's time for you to get creative – there is no set instructions or steps for this one as everyone will be using different combinations of materials but here are some tips for you to help get started...

- Define the small world space somehow – you might use carpet mats, a ring of rocks, blocks, a tub or tray.
- Use upturned hardcover books with materials draped over them to form little caves.
- Upturned bowls can form hills and mounds and are easy for children to reposition themselves or turn over and use in different ways.
- Include some greenery and twigs and press upright into sand, dirt or gravel to become trees for the dinosaurs to eat.
- Blue scarfs or material with some pebbles to weight them down become rivers, streams and ponds.

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- A large basket with yellow and red material scarps falling out could be a volcano erupting!
- Sticks and bark can form paths and bridges.
- Herbs, succulents, ferns and colourful flowers add sensory elements to the space.
- Get creative with what you have – no fancy materials required!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children begin to interact with the dinosaur small world they are learning to:

- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Work together in a group with others
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore and choose natural materials
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Broaden their knowledge and understanding of the world.

Extending the play:

- Provide small, fleshy leaved (not spiky) succulents for the children to plant in the dirt or sand themselves.
- Add water to the small world for extra sensory play.
- Mix some cornflour, brown powder dye and water together to make a sticky mud swamp then add the dinosaurs for lots of messy, imaginative fun!

