



## SANDY IMPRINT BOX

### Materials you need:

- Small cardboard boxes from the recycle bin
- Bucket of sand
- Selection of natural textured materials
- 1 quantity of plaster of paris (Follow directions on the pack and mix with water)

### Setup for play:

- Lay out the boxes or frames, sand and natural materials on a low work surface.
- Show the children how to add a layer of sand to their boxes so the bottom is covered.
- Use the different textured materials to press into the sand and make imprints.
- When the children are happy with their imprint pictures remove all materials then slowly pour a layer of plaster over the top. Smooth gently with some stiff cardboard.
- Leave to set for a few days (or follow suggestion on the plaster packet)
- When dry cut down the sides of the box and gently lift out the plaster imprint.
- Dust off excess sand then spray with a little sealer so they last longer.

### What are they learning with this activity?

As the children make their imprints and look at the finished plaque they are learning to:

- Classify, sort by category and group items together by similarities, patterns and differences
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively while investigating and experimenting
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project
- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Understand basic scientific processes

### Extending the play:

- Create gifts by pressing feet or hands into the sand, add a loop of wire before you pour the plaster in so you can hang up the plaques when dry.
- Experiment making imprints on playdough using different tools and materials.