



MOON SAND GARDENER

Materials you need:

- 6 Cups Sand
- 3 Cups cornflour (NOT gluten free, it doesn't work as well unfortunately)
- 1 Cup vegetable oil
- 1 Cup water
- 2 tsp glycerine (just for shine...optional)
- Old seedling pots, trays, plant pots or other containers from recycle bin
- Scoops, spoons, gardening forks etc
- Flowers and greenery from the garden (or use some fake ones from the \$2 shop if you don't have access)
- Coloured gravel for decoration (optional)

Setup for play:

- Dump all the dry ingredients into a large tray, tub or bowl and mix together well...the kids will love to help you out with this task!
- Add your liquids and again mix well....and enjoy the sensory experience yourself as it feels great! Make sure to include children in measuring & pouring!
- You will end up with a moist, silky but crumbly mixture that also moulds well...now you have yourself a batch of moon sand!
- To create the gardening theme add your garden props and encourage the children to explore the textures while planting.
- If you don't want to use a theme simply add some containers, moulds and spoons and let the play evolve!

EXPLORING OUR WORLD - ACTIVITY GUIDE 58

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children create and experiment with the moon sand they are learning to:

- Use the skill of transference and representation
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- 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
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and hands on investigation
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Understand lifecycles and how food gets to our plates

Extending the play:

- Add farm or zoo animals and different natural materials to set up sensory habitat environments.
- Take the seeds out to the garden to plant using soil – record the growth and explore concept of looking after living things.

