



SAGO SENSORY BALL TUB

Materials you need:

- 1 x packet dry sago or for larger balls you can use tapioca.
- Edicol colour dyes (or food colouring).
- Spoons, trays, small containers from the recycle bin to fill and empty, scoops.
- Jug of tepid water.
- Large (but shallow) sensory tub or tray.

Setup for play:

- Pour the packet of sago or tapioca into a large bowl, add just enough tepid water to cover and then leave to soak overnight.
- In the morning check on the bowl and you will see the water has been absorbed and the balls have swelled.
- If you want to have a few different colours to play with separate the sago across 3-4 bowls, sprinkle a little edicol powder paint dye into each bowl and pass out the spoons so the toddlers can mix and turn the sago from white to a colour!
- Add all colours into the sensory tub, place on a low table for easy access then add the containers, spoons, scoops and small bowls.
- Stand back as they mix, squish, pour, fill and empty.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children explore the sensory fun of the sago balls they are learning to:

- Listen to and follow directions
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Express themselves creatively
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and observation
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Work together in a group with others

Extending the play:

- Add water to the sensory tub and talk about what happens to the balls.
- Take the sago out of the sensory tub and pour onto a table. Encourage the children to touch and move the sago around with both their hands, create patterns, pick up small pieces, squeeze, squash and release.

