



JAR TERRARIUMS

Materials you need:

- Mason jars or medium sized clean jars from the recycle bin.
- Small succulent plants
- Potting soil
- Pebbles, rocks, sand and moss (you can find these at a garden centre or forage in your backyard)
- Packet of coloured tiny gravel decorative pebbles (also easily found in garden centres).
- Packet of plastic spoons or some metal teaspoons (at least 1 for each child).

Setup for play:

- Place all materials on a easily accessible surface with one jar for each child.
- Show children how to begin adding layers of soil, moss, pebbles, gravel and sand to their jars using the spoons.
- Layer first with the larger pebbles and moss to help provide drainage then add a soil layer then at least 2 more soil/pebble/moss layers as this will help prevent overwatering issues and provide consistent drainage since there are no holes in the bottom of glass jar.
- Finish with a soil level, press a little hole into the soil and press the succulent into the hole. Pack with moss or gravel.
- Water the moss rather than the plant as succulents like to keep their leaves dry
- Explain why the succulents need only a little water at a time and how to look after their new terrarium.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children build their terrariums they are learning to:

- Broaden their understanding of the world
- Use play to investigate and explore new ideas
- Make predictions and generalisations about aspects of the natural world around them
- Use their senses to explore the natural environment
- Repeat & practice the actions of others
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and experimentation
- Express themselves creatively
- 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
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Respect and care for natural living things

Extending the play:

- Use recycled jars but this time plant sensory herbs using just soil and herb seedlings.
- Brainstorm other recyclable materials you could use to plant succulents Pull one of the leaves off the succulent plants and replant in a tub of soil. Note what happens -does it grow?

