



SCOOP & BAG

Materials you need:

- A tray or tub of dry sand (or use the sandpit or mud kitchen space).
- A variety of different sized and coloured paper bags e.g brown lunch bags, party favour bags, lolly bags etc – check the \$2 shop!
- Spoons, scoops, cups – try and collect a variety to choose from
- Set of balance/kitchen scales

Setup for play:

- Place the scoops, spoons, cups together on a table near the sand tray.
- Add the bags to the sand tray and encourage the children to have fun choosing the bag and tools they want to use to fill with sand.
- Show the children how to weigh their bag on the scales. Which is the heaviest? Which is the lightest? Is the bag full or empty now? Can you use a smaller/larger bag? What colour is your bag? Can you fit more sand in your bag? Is the spoon or scoop easier to use?
- Obviously don't just fire off a whole lot of questions while they play but if you are joining in you can engage them organically as the opportunities arise.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children use the different tools to fill their bags they are learning to:

- Experiment with cause and effect
- Use hand/eye coordination skills, balance and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Use observational skills to look closely and notice details
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials and tools they want to use and what works best.
- Measure and compare weight and volume
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, control and spatial awareness
- Recognise and name numbers
- Recognise measurement symbols
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and observation

Extending the play:

- Instead of the dry sand use wet and explore the difference it makes in weight. You could also use lentils or rice.
- Introduce some different shaped boxes to use instead of the bags. Add some large hessian bags to the outdoor sand area along with some spades so the children can try filling bags on a larger scale!
- Use scales outdoors to measure and weigh natural materials.

