



MUDDY TRUCK SENSORY PLAY

Materials you need:

- A plastic tub or large tray
- 1 x goop mix – [use this recipe if you don't know how to make goop](#)
- Brown/ black food colouring or brown edicol powder paint
- Small lightweight cars and trucks or you could use animals, figurines, fairies or whatever the children have an interest in at the moment!
- A few rocks, pebbles and greenery to help create a muddy small world in the bush.
- Bucket of water and some scrubbing brushes/cloths

Setup for play:

- Make your goop the night before (in the tub you are going to use for play preferably) so you don't need to worry about getting it right in the morning!
- Add a little colour and stand back while the children mix until brownish like mud. Place a basket or tray of the stones and greenery on the table along with the cars and let the children set up their muddy swamp the way they want to. If you have a large group it might be easier to have a few smaller tubs across a couple of tables to provide easier access.
- Watch the play evolve as they try to push the cars through the thick goopy 'mud'. Ensure the bucket of water is close by for those children that need to wash their hands (and the cars) often.

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What are they learning with this activity?

As the children set up their sensory box and drive cars through the goopy mud they are learning to:

- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Use descriptive language
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and observation
- Use play to investigate, imagine and explore ideas.
- Use hand/eye coordination skills
- Express themselves creatively
- Manipulate objects to explore motion, cause and effect
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore and choose natural materials

Extending the play:

- Use shaving foam for a different sensory experience
- Add books and pictures of cars, trucks, muddy spaces and swamps to the learning environment for further investigation.
- Lay down some paper and create interesting patterns by rolling the goopy cars over the paper or some cardboard.

