



BUBBLY VOLCANOES

Materials you need:

- Wet sand in a tray or in a few shallow trays if you have a large group.
- Clean yoghurt pots or similar from the recycle bin
- Spoons
- Bicarb of soda (baking soda)
- White vinegar
- Red food colouring or edicol powder dye
- Plastic syringe or turkey baster

Setup for play:

- Place the yoghurt pots into the sand tray and show the children how to build up the sand around the pots to make a volcano mountain shape.
- The yoghurt pot should now be in the top tip of the sand mound to form a 'crater' - bowl!
- Let the children spoon some bicarb into the yoghurt pots until about half full.
- Mix the vinegar with the red food colouring or powder dye in a large jug or bowl. Pass out syringes or basters and encourage the children to take turns filling with the vinegar mixture then squirting into the bicarb in the yoghurt pot.
- Watch as the volcano begins to bubble then erupt with red over the edge!
- Take turns to make the volcano erupt and when the bicarb soda runs out simply take out the yoghurt container and refill to start the play all over again!

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What are they learning with this activity?

As they build and erupt the volcanoes the children are learning to:

- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Increase fine motor strength, eye-hand coordination and dexterity
- Understand basic position concepts
- Listen to and follow directions
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and hands on investigation
- Use their imagination to explore real life events
- Use observational skills to look closely and notice details
- Manipulate objects to explore cause and effect
- Understand certain physical properties of the world
- Use senses to assist and guide learning.
- Express themselves creatively while investigating and experimenting
- Create with different mediums and textures

Extending the play:

- Turn the volcano sand tray into a dinosaur small world by adding some greenery, flowers, succulents and dinosaur figures. What happens to them when the volcano erupts?
- Use 2 tablespoons of citric acid mixed with some water instead of the vinegar. Is the eruption different? Bigger? Smaller?

