



A Day at the Beach

WTG At Home, Spring Quarter Weeks 9 & 10

Materials listed in purple will be provided at May 6th Art Pickup

Art Activity: Ocean Squishy Bag

Materials: Ziplock bags (freezer bags work the best), masking or duct tape, blue dish detergent, **small ocean themed items**, glitter

Directions: Fill a Ziplock bag half full of blue dish detergent. Add ocean themed items and glitter. Seal the bag (getting all the air out) and tape shut with tape. For extra security from messes, place in a second Ziplock and seal shut. Let your little one squish and poke their sea creatures around!



Art Activity: Ice Cube Painting

Materials: Ice cube tray, small bowls, food coloring, **popsicle sticks**, **white construction paper**

Directions:

1. Place $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water into small bowls. Add 5 or more drops of food coloring to each bowl. Mix well.
2. Put colored water into the sections of an ice cube tray.
3. Place in freezer for 30-45 minutes, or until water is half-frozen.
4. Stick popsicle sticks into the center of each ice cube. Put back in freezer for a few hours until frozen solid.
5. Remove the cubes and have your toddler paint on a piece of paper.



Alternative: Instead of food coloring, use Kool Aid or Crystal Light mixes. Best part – it is also a delicious treat!



Fine Motor: Jellyfish Fun!

Materials: Paper plate, 6 pipe cleaners, colorful straws, hole punch, scissors, markers

Directions: Cut up the straws into smaller pieces. Have your toddler string the straw pieces onto the pipe cleaners. Punch six holes along the bottom edge of the paper plate, put a pipe cleaner through each hole, and twist to attach. Let your toddler use markers to add a face to the plate.

Extensions: For older toddlers, have them make a pattern with the straws. For example, red/blue/red/blue, or light/dark/light/dark

Fine Motor: Octopus Snack

Materials: Paper cup, white piece of paper, marker, cereal or puffs

Directions: Turn the cup upside down and let your little one draw eyes and a mouth to make the octopus body. Place the cup on a piece of paper and draw eight lines (or tentacles). Have your toddler use pieces of cereal to cover up the lines. Once the octopus is complete, let your toddler enjoy their fun snack!





Gross Motor: Indoor Volleyball

Materials: Chairs, pool noodle, beach ball

Directions: Clear a space in your home. Place two chairs apart from each other and add a pool noodle between to create a “net.” Use a small blowup beach ball to play your very own inside volleyball game!

Adaptations: Instead of a beach ball, use a stuffed animal or small pillow. Try playing kids against grownups. Who will win? 😊

Gross Motor: Blanket Hammock

Materials: Large blanket, table

Directions: Drape a large blanket around your dining room table and tie it tightly at the top (see picture). Let your kids climb into their private hammock! Put on some tropical music or ocean sounds to create the perfect setting.



Imaginative Play: Inside Beach

Materials: Beach themed items such as towels, beach chairs, sun hats, sunglasses, sand toys, etc. Optional: blue blanket for water, beige blanket for sand, pieces of wood for driftwood.

Directions: Create your very own inside beach! Let your toddler help set up. Use “driftwood” to create structures. How tall can you stack it? Can you make it look like something? Bring out some snacks or set up a picnic on the blankets. Let your imagination soar!



Imaginative Play: Bathtub Pool Party!

Materials: swimsuits, goggles, small floaties, buckets, bathtub, bubbles, etc

Directions: The beach isn't the only place for bathing suits! Make your very own bathtub into a fun swimming hole. Add beach toys, bubbles, and floaties, and it will feel just like the pool, but warmer!

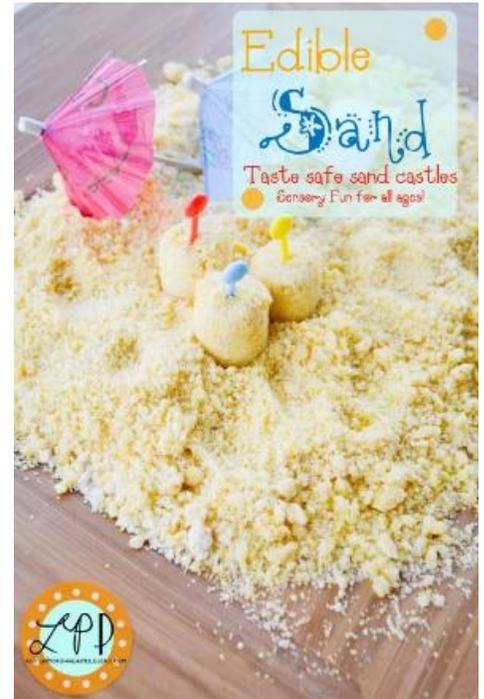


Sensory Bin: Edible Sand

Materials: Corn meal, flour, oil (any kind), corn syrup, small sand toys, mini umbrellas (the kind you use for tropical drinks), cookie sheet or large plastic tub

Directions:

1. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of corn meal, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of flour, 1 TBS oil, and 1 TBS corn syrup in bowl.
2. Spread mixture onto a cookie sheet or in a large plastic tub.
3. Add small sand toys and mini umbrellas. Let your toddler's imagination run wild!
4. Best part – the “sand” is edible!



Science: Melting Sandcastles

Materials: Sandcastle molds, baking soda, water, vinegar, shells or rocks (optional), glitter (optional), eye droppers or baster

Directions:

1. Mix half a box of baking soda into warm water until it is dissolved.
2. Pour into a sandcastle mold. Add shells, rocks, or glitter (optional).
3. Place in freezer until frozen solid.
4. Take out of mold and place on a cookie sheet or in a tub.
5. Have toddler squirt vinegar onto frozen castle. Watch what happens!



Songs and Finger Plays:

[Animals in the Ocean](#)

[Big Sea Star](#)

[The Goldfish](#)

[Pretty Crabby](#)

[Slippery Fish](#)

[10 Little Fishies](#)

Read Alouds:

[Beach Day!](#) by Patricia Lakin

[Curious George at the Beach](#) by Margret and H.A. Reys

[Mister Seahorse](#) by Eric Carle

[Over in the Ocean in a Coral Reef](#) by Marianne Berkes

[Pete the Cat – Pete at the Beach](#) by James Dean

[There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Shell](#) by Lucille Colandro