



Toddlers
(18 to 36 Months)

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Activity #34 “Tubs of Fun with Water and Sand”

You will need: Two plastic tubs, one with a cover

Objects such as plastic measuring cups and spoon small colander,

sifter, plastic pitcher, small bucket, shovel, egg beater, turkey baster

Plastic or vinyl cloth, towel, small whiskbroom and dust pan, sponge

Clean sand

Older toddler

Time to observe

Before you begin:

- Designate one tub for water play and the tub with lid for sand play.
 - Collect some of the items listed above. Store them in a box or mesh bag.
 - Decide which activity to introduce first.
-

Try this!

Water Play

- Put about two inches of water in the tub
- Place the tub on a table covered with a plastic or vinyl cloth.
- Dress your child in old clothes because clothes may get a little wet.
- Allow your child to select three or four items to place in the water tub.
- Discuss with your child the correct way to play in the water tub.
 - ✓ Water stays in the tub
 - ✓ Use the sponge to clean up any accidental spills
 - ✓ Dry props with the towel before putting them back in the box or bag.
- Talk with your child about what he is doing as he plays in the water. Say, for instance, “*Look! That water is going right through the colander.*” Or “*You’re filling that pitcher with water.*”
- Stay near by in case your child needs a reminder about the correct way to play in the water.
- Throw the water away after play. Then thoroughly dry the tub.

Sand Play

- Put about two inches of sand in the tub.
- Place the tub on a table covered with a plastic or vinyl cloth.
- Allow your child to select three or four items to place in the tub.
- Discuss with your child the correct way to play in the sand tub.
 - ✓ Sand stays in the tub.
 - ✓ Ask for help to clean up any spilled sand. Use the whiskbroom and dustpan.
 - ✓ Store toys in box or bag at end of play.
 - ✓ Wash hands after playing in sand.
 - ✓ Play with the sand when an adult says it's okay.
- Talk with your child as he is playing in the sand. Ask, for instance, "*What do you think you can use to fill the bucket with sand?*" or "*Try putting some sand in the sifter. What happens when you turn the handle?*"
- Stay nearby in case your child needs a reminder about the correct way to play in the sand.
- Cover the sand tub and put it away until next playtime.

Try these variations of the activities!

- Take sand and water play outdoors where your child can play without having to be so concerned about spilling the sand or water.
- Allow your child to add water to the sand. Give him molds to use in the wet sand. Talk with him about his "mold" creations.
- Allow your child to add a couple of squirts of liquid detergent to the water tub. Give him an eggbeater or whisk. Talk with him about what happens when he uses the eggbeater or whisk in the water to which detergent has been added.
- Add vinyl animals, a couple of squirts of liquid detergent and a sponge to the water tub. Encourage your child to wash the animals, then dry them with a towel.