

“In the Construction Zone”

Module 11, Sand Dough



Prompt:

Construction workers work with sand, dirt, and water at many construction sites. And things can get really messy!

Mix a few ingredients together to make your own sand dough! Bury things in it, scoop it, squish it between your fingers. Make a mini construction site and use your sand dough to make blocks stick together or use it to build simple structures.

Materials:

- [Sand](#)
- [Shaving Cream](#) (the foamy kind, not the gel kind)
- Plastic container or tray for dough

Suggested items to use when playing with dough:

- Toy construction vehicles
- Small sand toys and shovels
- Building block toys, such as Legos or Duplos
- Small plastic containers to use for filling
- Rocks, sticks, shells
- Kitchen items (spoons, spatulas, small bowls)

Note for caregivers: This activity could get messy. Use a plastic table cloth or garbage bag to cover any surfaces you don't want to get dough on or do this activity outside.

Recipe:

There is no exact recipe for this dough. You can play with the amounts of sand and shaving cream until you get the consistency you like. We recommend starting with about 2 cups of sand in your container. Then, gradually add shaving cream and mix with a spoon or your hands. Keep adding sand and shaving cream until it is a consistency that works for you and your child. The more shaving cream you add, the mushier your dough will be. The more sand you add, the more moldable your dough will be.

While your child is playing the dough may start to dry out a little. If this happens, just add a bit more shaving cream while they're playing.

Instructions:

1. Read the prompt with your child.
2. Work together to set up an area in your home or outside where your child can make and explore the dough.
3. Work together to follow the recipe above to make your dough. Talk with your child about how they see the dough changing as you add more sand or shaving cream.
4. Once you and your child are happy with your dough, add in any other toys or tools your child will be using with the dough (see suggested items above).
5. Invite your child to begin exploring! Some children will jump right in. Some may need a little more prompting to get them going. Suggestions to get your child started include:
 - Bury an object in the dough and challenge your child to find it.
 - Encourage them to make a small ball with the dough and to squeeze the ball in their hand.
 - Invite your child to experiment with how the dough might help two blocks stick together.
 - Create a story about the dough. Is it from a construction site? Do you need to create roads and paths for vehicles to navigate through it?
 - If your child doesn't feel comfortable touching the dough, give them spoons or other utensils to use instead of their hands.

Resources:

Visitors at Boston Children's Museum loved playing with this dough on a large scale to celebrate Funky Friday! Check out these pictures for inspiration:



Extensions:

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Experiment with adding more sand or shaving cream. How does your dough change?
- Invite your child to practice writing letters or numbers in the dough with their fingers. They can even draw a picture.
- Change out the toys and tools your child has been playing with. Add toy dinosaurs, kitchen utensils, or natural materials.
- Let your sand dry out in the sun. See how the texture has changed.

Together with your child, go to the “In the Construction Zone” topic on Flipgrid and share their experience with sand dough.