



Toddler Sand/Water Center Tip Sheet

Sand or water play should be offered to children over the age of 18 months. The area set aside for sand or water play should be sufficient for the number and abilities of children who will be playing in the center. The containers used can be either free standing (large sensory tables) or tubs placed on tables.

Sand or water play should be offered at least once a week, but for best practice it should be accessible daily.

Teachers should be within arm's reach to adequately supervise the children. The area should be cleaned up as needed to prevent slipping or falling.

There should be enough sand or water to facilitate play. Enough sand or water means that the children can very easily scoop, pour, and manipulate the material.

A variety of props should be available for use in the sand or water center to limit competition between the children using the items (i.e. include different size containers, different types of scoops, small animals, or vehicles).



This outdoor water table has two places with only enough space for one child to play at each water station. The spacing also limits undue competition.

Use alternative activities like washing shells, baby dolls, play dishes, etc. to promote continued interest.

