

## SENSORY TABLE IDEAS

- Add bubble wrap, old cars and a little water to your sensory table. The children drive their cars over the bubble wrap to make popping noise.
- Make the water table a garden. Fill with topsoil and add flowers or seeds. Add gardening tools such as trowels, cups, and pails. Plastic/silk flowers can also be used for a “ready-made” garden.
- Add tearless baby shampoo...bubbles are made with wire whisks or a hand cranked mixer.
- Add shaving cream, instant mashed potatoes, cornmeal, grits, dry beans of any variety, rice, unusual shaped/colored noodles, oatmeal, flour, dried corn, buttons. Have children sort the dry items into containers.
- During very hot weather put ice cubes in the water table. Let the children experience cold and melting. Make ice cubes and freeze fun things inside such as small dinosaurs, jelly worms, counting pieces, plastic bugs/insects. Ice balls can be made from freezing water balloons overnight. Tear off and discard balloons before adding ice balls to table.
- Add a turkey baster, empty squirt bottles, and funnels. Discuss terms like: empty, full, more and less.
- Make “ooey gooey stuff” for the water table. Recipe: Liquid starch and white glue (usually equal parts, mix and it becomes “blubbery”).
- Add water with wiggly fishing worms. Children will giggle while grasping the slimy worms!
- Have children pan for “gold”. Place a layer of sand at the bottom of the sensory table and enough water to cover the sand by three inches. Add tin pie plates and pyrite or small pebbles to the sand. Have the children pan for the “gold”.
- Add potting soil and live earthworms.
- Use the table for washing baby dolls and dishes.
- Add shaving cream to the table.
- Use cornstarch and water to make “goop”.
- Add sea animals in blue water.
- Add fake gems in the sand and dig for treasure.
- Add bird seed with different sizes of sifters and sieves.
- Add tree limb to represent a log and plastic frogs.
- Spray paint dried lima beans gold and use in sand for searching for gold.
- Create a pond using plastic fish, frogs, lizards and lily pads cut from craft foam.
- Make an assortment of funnels by cutting plastic bottles in half. Cover the cut edge with masking tape.
- When studying measuring, plastic bottles of varying sizes. Draw several lines on each bottle with different colors of permanent marker. Have the children fill the bottles to the line and then compare which has more.

Please refer to Georgia’s Pre-K Science Content Standards for specific performance indicators.

### PROPS FOR SENSORY TABLE

#### **Sand (or other dry materials)**

Muffin tins  
 Cookie cutters  
 Seashells  
 Feathers  
 Sifters  
 Tweezers  
 Shovels  
 Molds  
 Sprayers or misters  
 Small cars and trucks  
 Sticks and seeds  
 Rolling pins  
 Rakes  
 Plastic animals

#### **Sand and Water**

Marbles  
 Pebbles  
 Seashells  
 String  
 Funnels  
 Pots and pans  
 Buckets and bowls  
 Measuring cups  
 Measuring spoons  
 Scoops and strainers  
 Ladles and sieves  
 Empty film containers  
 Corks and nesting cups  
 Small containers  
 Dinosaur props  
 Plastic worms  
 PVC pipes w/connectors

#### **Water (or other liquid materials)**

Paintbrushes  
 Spray bottles  
 Food coloring  
 Siphons  
 Waterwheels  
 Boats  
 Squeeze bottles  
 Egg beaters  
 Tongs  
 Whisks  
 Eye droppers  
 Plastic straws  
 Vegetable dyes  
 Sponges  
 Marine animals  
 Small fish nets  
 Fish cut from foam pieces  
 Scented extracts