

# The New York Public Library

# A Day of Play

## Sensory Bin

PLAY that is open-ended and self-directed should be something children have daily. Sensory bins can be filled with a variety of ordinary, everyday items. They allow children to experience a variety of different textures and sensations. Water is a fun way for children explore and to learn science concepts.

### MATERIALS:

- Any bowl, tub, or container that can hold water
- Measuring cups or spoons, child-safe cups, ladles
- Sponge or toys

### HOW TO PLAY:

Fill the container with water. Add any child-safe items that can be used for scooping and pouring.

You can also add items to do a sink or float experiment. Or set up a washing station with water safe animals, cars, or other toys!

For water-free play, fill the tub with cotton balls and hide items inside for your child to explore!

*Safety tip: Always use child-safe materials and supervise your child during play.*

### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- Ask your child what is in the bin? how does it feel?
- Describe what you are doing - "We are using the cup to pour more water in the container!"
- Ask "what can you find in the bin?"

