

SENSORY PLAY TABLE

GUIDELINES



Sand

- Play sand must be free of visible disease-causing or injury-producing agents such as parasitic eggs, insects, faeces or foreign objects.
- Pre-packaged sand purchased at most hardware stores is a safe benign product that should be used.
- Replace indoor play sand monthly. Clean and disinfect the bins between emptying and refilling.
- Once play sand becomes moist or wet it may be capable of sustaining microbiological growth and should be discarded immediately and the sand replaced.



Water

- Germs love water!
- Water play tables can trap, grow and spread germs from one child to another.
- Use fresh tap water. Do not add bleach or vinegar.
- If water tables are used for the whole day, the water should be changed for each group play.
- After each session drain, clean and disinfect the bin and all toys.



Food

- Use only dried food products (e.g., cereal, pasta, rice).
- Label and store dried food in a sealed container with a tight -fitting lid.
- Discard weekly or sooner if food becomes moist or wet.
- Clean and disinfect the bins between emptying and refilling.
- Be aware of allergies.



Playdough

- Homemade playdough should be discarded daily.
- Unused homemade playdough may be stored in the refrigerator for up to one week.

Best Practices

- **Wash hands** before and after using sensory table.
- Do not eat or drink while participating in sensory play.
- Choose bins with smooth, non-absorbent and non-corrosive surfaces. Rounded corners and edges are better for easy cleaning.
- Children with a runny nose or cough should have individual sensory play until symptoms completely resolved.
- Always read product labels and warnings to ensure play material is age appropriate and safe for use by children.
- **Do not use group sensory tables during an outbreak.** Sensory play items that were in use prior to the outbreak (e.g., playdough) must be discarded.

