

jellystone™
designs

TRAY PLAY

IDEAS & INSPIRATION



DESIGNED FOR CALM. MADE FOR PLAY.



JURASSIC JOURNEY

What you need:

Tray Play

Toy dinosaurs

Chickpeas, oats, seeds (e.g., sunflower, pumpkin, etc. for the terrain)

What next:

Check what is in the pantry! Start by filling the tray with chickpeas, oats, and seeds to create a prehistoric landscape that will be the perfect terrain for your toy dinosaurs. Encourage your child to feel the different textures as they explore the soft oats, bumpy chickpeas, and crunchy seeds. Place the toy dinosaurs in the scene, letting them roam across the terrain.

Can they make dinosaur tracks in the oats or dig the dinosaurs into the chickpeas like they're buried in the ground? Use the seeds to add extra details like little rocks or plants. As they play, spark their imagination by creating stories about the dinosaurs and their adventures in the wild Jurassic world they've built!





RAINBOW FIZZ

What you need:

Tray Play

Pipettes

Baking Soda

Food dye (in various colours)

Vinegar

What next:

Start by spreading a generous layer of baking soda across the base of the tray, creating a fizzy foundation. Drop different colours of food dye onto the baking soda making colourful splashes across the surface. Next, fill the centre of the tray lid with vinegar and using a pipette (great for fine motor skills!) suck up some vinegar. Carefully drop vinegar splashes onto the colourful baking soda and watch the science as these two elements react. As the vinegar hits the baking soda it will start to fizz and bubble, creating a rainbow of fizzing magic! Encourage kids to experiment with mixing colours and making different fizzy patterns. Repeat the process and watch the vibrant reactions unfold as the rainbow fizzes to life!



NIGHT SKY

What you need:

Tray Play

Paper circle with colourful design like one of the artworks from preschool

Salt

Black food dye

Small paintbrushes or sticks

What next:

Start by taking a large sheet of paper and placing the base of the tray on top. Trace around the edge to create a circle, then carefully cut it out with scissors. Use colourful crayons, pencils and or paints decorate your paper circle however you like - or use one of your existing artworks like we did! Once the artwork is dry, place the decorated circle at the bottom of the tray. Next, cover the paper circle with a layer of black salt creating the perfect backdrop for a starry night. To create the salt, use a zip lock bag then add salt and a few drops of food colouring. Seal the bag and squish it around in all directions until the salt is coloured fully. Using a paintbrush or stick and invite your little one to draw stars, moons, and other shapes in the "sky." As they brush or swipe, the black sand will move away, revealing the colourful designs they've created underneath. Watch the night sky come to life as they uncover their artistic creations, full of sparkling stars and glowing moons!

NATURAL WONDERS

What you need:

Tray Play

Anything you can find outside from the garden, park etc.

Bark, leaves, flowers, small rocks, seeds, twigs, gum nuts, pinecones etc.

What next:

Go on an outdoor adventure with your little one and see what interesting things you can find to put in your Tray Play. Things like tree bark, leaves, flowers, small stones, twigs, and gumnuts. Once you've gathered your treasures, arrange them across the tray in creative ways. Explore the textures, shapes, and colours of each item—feel the roughness of the bark, the softness of the leaves, and the bumpy texture of the gumnuts. Create patterns, scenes, or even a tiny bush / forest with your findings. You can also use the small rocks or pinecones to make little pathways or add extra details. Encourage storytelling as your child imagines tiny creatures living in the world they've created, making it a fun outdoor adventure indoors!





COSMIC ADVENTURE

What you need:

Tray Play

Sensory Kit - Galaxy

Digging tools, spoon, spade etc.

What next:

Unpack the contents of the Sensory Kit and begin by arranging the black rice and the white salt meteors. Sprinkle in the sparkling glitter stars and moons. Next arrange the planets, astronauts, alien and rocketship. Encourage your little one to dig, scoop, and sift through the "cosmic dust" to uncover hidden stars and space treasures! Pretend they're astronauts on a mission to find stars in the vast universe. Discuss "What do you think is beyond the stars?" or "Can you name the some of the planets?"

CLOUD CREATIONS

What you need:

Tray Play

Shaving foam

Food dye (multiple colours)

Small spoons or brushes

What next:

Create fluffy "clouds" in the tray with shaving foam. Add a few drops of food dye to the foam, and watch the colors swirl and mix together. Let your little one use their fingers, spoons, or brushes to explore how the colors blend and change! Can they make a rainbow cloud? What happens when different colors touch? It is messy but kids love all this sensory feedback. After play simply rinse and wash with soapy water or pop in the dishwasher.





ZESTY BURSTS

What you need:

Tray Play

Fresh orange and lemon slices

Water

Glo Pals

What next:

Fill the base of the Tray with a shallow layer of water. Slice up some fresh oranges and lemons. Drop them into the water. Tell your child to close their eyes and take a big sniff of the slices—ask them “can you smell the sweet orange or the tangy lemon?” Encourage your child to describe the scents of each fruit. Does the orange smell sweet and fresh, while the lemon is sharp and tangy? A fun opportunity to explore the power of smell! Encourage your child to swirl, squeeze and play with the fruit. What else can you add it?

Try some ‘Glo Pals’ to illuminate the zesty water fun!



FROZEN OVER

What you need:

Tray Play

Any small random objects - we used penguins!

Water

Water balloons

What next:

This activity takes a little bit of preparation ideally the night before. Using some small random objects like mini animals, lego, flowers and leaves, carefully insert them into the empty water balloons. (We had some chia seeds left over so we added those as well!)

Fill the water balloons with water - just a small amount, tie the top and then add to the freezer for at least 8 hours. Once frozen cut the top of the water balloon and peel it away to reveal the frozen objects inside. Talk about if the elements look like you had expected they would be trapped in the ice? Did they float or sink? Watch the ice slowly melt, use a fork or spoon to tap away on the ice or add some salt to the tray to speed up the melting process.



RAINBOW ICE

What you need:

Tray Play

Lots of ice cubes

Watercolour paints

Paint brush

What next:

Fill the base of the Tray Play with the ice cubes - the more the merrier so it doesn't melt too quickly. Using the paint brush and the water colour paints start painting directly on to each ice cube. Watch as the ice transforms to colourful gems as each face of the cube is coloured!

Some questions to pose and chat about are: As the ice starts to melt try to guess what colours will mix together and what colour with they make? How many different colours can you use? Is the ice melting quickly or slowly? Do some cubes melt faster than others? What's your favourite colour?

LAVA SWIRLS

What you need:

Tray Play

Dark base (black paper etc.)

Coloured salt (try yellow, orange and red)

Small brushes

What next:

Start by creating a dark base on the Tray using black paper or another dark surface to set the stage for your lava adventure. Once the base is ready, spread the coloured salt (yellow, orange, and red) across the dark surface to form a fiery scene that resembles molten lava.

Give your child a small brush to gently swirl the colours together making patterns and occasionally revealing the dark base underneath. Encourage them to create swirling lava flows, mixing the colours and watching them blend. What happens when the yellow and red combine? Can they make the salt look like flowing lava, or like fiery waves? The dark background makes the colours pop, adding to the excitement as they explore textures, colours, and patterns through their swirls. Let the creative lava flow!



CHASING RAINBOWS

What you need:

Tray Play

Coloured rice in Rainbow hues (red, orange, yellow, green, blues, purple)

Jellystone Designs Sensory Snow (for the cloud)

Jellystone Designs Triblox (Rainbow)

What next:

Start by laying out the coloured rice in the tray to create a beautiful rainbow pattern. Let your child explore the colours by running their fingers through the rice—what colours can they find? Next, place a fluffy white cloud made from Sensory Snow at the top of the rainbow. Let your child feel how soft and cool the cloud is. Then, encourage your child to place the rainbow-coloured Triblox on the matching colours in the rice rainbow. Can they match the red block with the red rice, the blue block with the blue rice, and so on? As they play, they'll practice colour recognition and fine motor skills while having fun with the vibrant rainbow. Mix up the rice, snow, and blocks for endless creative possibilities all while exploring colours, textures and building fun!





TREASURE ISLAND

What you need:

Tray Play

Sensory Kit - Under the Sea

A shovel or small scooper

What next:

Unpack the contents of the Sensory Kit and begin by arranging the rice ocean and the yellow salt sand. Bury some "treasures" beneath the waves or in the sand. Add in the fishing boat, the sea animals and seaweed.

Let your little one explore the island; dig, scoop, and search for the hidden gems! What kind of treasures will they find?

Talk about what it might be like to be a pirate on a treasure hunt!

Can they find and count the golden coins or sparkling gems?

FAIRY GARDEN

What you need:

Tray Play

Jellystone Designs Sensory Kit - Fairy Garden

What next:

Start by spreading the rice sensory base across the tray to create the garden's ground, then place the faux grass to form a lush, green lawn. Use the picket fence to build a magical pathway or border around the garden. Once your base is set, place the fairy figurine in the garden and imagine where she might be going. Scatter the flower petals around the garden to add vibrant colour and beauty, and sprinkle some sequins for fairy dust shimmer. Invite the ladybug figurines into the garden by placing them among the flowers and grass, creating a natural, magical atmosphere. Finally, add a touch of purple bath salt for both a pop of colour and a lovely fragrance to complete your fairy garden! Let your imagination run wild as you design a magical world for the fairies to live and explore!



SLIMEY SPEEDWAY

What you need:

Tray Play

Toy cars

Chia slime (chia seeds, corn flower, food colouring)

What next:

To make the chia slime soak chia seeds (1/4 cup) in water (1 and 3/4 cup) overnight. Add the food dye to the mixture then add in the corn flower cup by cup (approx 3 - 4 cups) until you get the perfect goey consistency.

Spread the slime across the tray to create a gooey, slippery track for the toy cars to race on.

Let your little one feel the slime—how does it stretch and squish under their fingers?

Explore the way the chia seeds feel as they squish and move around in the goo. Next, take the toy cars and let them zoom through the slime, leaving tracks as they go! Encourage your child to race the cars, slide them, or even bury them in the slime to see what happens. Can they get the cars unstuck from the gooey texture? In the Tray Play have some water handy so the cars can get cleaned up and properly detailed after their adventures.



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