



Sand Construction Crew

Give sandbox play a clear construction theme. Your child can dig, haul, dump, and repeat as each new sand house expands the neighborhood.

Helps Your Child Grow



Gross Motor

Repeatedly scooping, carrying, and dumping sand gives your child a playful reason to walk, squat, bend, and stand.



Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

A clear pretend theme and a sequence of small tasks help your child stay engaged while working toward a visible goal.



What You'll Need



Toy Construction
Vehicles



Small Bucket



Small Shovel

What You'll Need

1. Toy construction vehicles
2. a small bucket
3. a small shovel



Start the Construction Job

Bring several sandbox tools and announce today's job: building houses. Begin with one clear task - use the shovel to load sand into the construction vehicle for delivery.

Observations

- ☐ Scoops sand into the toy construction vehicle
- ☐ Holds sand and watches it run through their fingers

Tips

- Before starting, state the existing play rule: "Sand stays in the sandbox. If sand is thrown or put in a mouth, we pause."
- A pretend building job and one concrete task can give open-ended sand play a motivating direction.



Build a Sand House

Work like a construction crew: haul the sand, fill the bucket, then turn the bucket upside down to make a house. The connected steps naturally keep your child moving and make repetition part of the story.

Observations

- Walks back and forth, squats, and stands while hauling sand
- Stays engaged while filling and shaping the sand

Tips

- If the sand is too dry to hold its shape, mix in a small amount of water.
- Stand a little farther back while dumping so loose sand does not scatter toward the eyes. If sand gets in an eye, rinse it promptly with saline.
- Use short action phrases: “Fill the empty bucket.” “The bucket is full.” “Turn it over.”
- Pulling the vehicle, transferring sand, and turning the bucket all support #PMP-GrM.



Build a Whole Neighborhood

Once several houses appear, add a new goal: build a few more and turn them into a neighborhood. The story invites your child to repeat the same digging, hauling, and dumping sequence.

Observations

- Walks around the sandbox while working
- Pretends a mound of sand is a house

Tips

- Decorate the houses with fallen leaves or flowers, or press shaped molds into the sand.
- Notice the part your child enjoys most and turn it into the next small job.