

Sand & Sea Sensory bin

What you will need –

- Plastic tub
- Jelly mix
- Blue food colouring
- Sea creatures
- Shells that you collected from a trip to the beach
- Rice Crispies (Cheerios work well also)
- Spoons



Method:

1. Mix up the jelly
2. Add in the blue food colouring (optional)
3. Pour the jelly mix in to your sensory tray
4. Start to add your sea creatures to the tray so the jelly forms with the sea creatures under the mix, leave this in the fridge to set (I would advise titling too your sensory tray slightly to keep the jelly mostly at one end, keeping the other free or your beach)
5. Crush the rice crispies and set this to one side of the sensory bin – this will be your beach
6. Once the jelly is set, add the beach to one corner/ side of the tray and add your shells
7. Then you are ready to go fishing with your spoon for the sea creatures

Benefits:

- **Develop Fine Motor Skills:** By scooping, pouring, and sorting materials, children refine hand-eye coordination and dexterity.
- **Stimulate the Senses:** Sensory bins engage the sense of touch, sight, and sometimes smell, creating a multi-sensory learning experience.
- **Enhance Cognitive Skills:** Sorting, categorizing, and discovering hidden objects encourage problem-solving and critical thinking.
- **Support Emotional Regulation:** The calm, repetitive actions in a sensory bin can help children focus and relax.

Incorporate Learning Activities

- **RESCUE MISSION** – This is a great one for little adventurers! Bury the Ocean-themed trinkets deep inside the Jelly and challenge the kids to go on a rescue mission to save the trapped sea creatures. Use tweezers, tongs, or scoops to “rescue” each toy from the sticky, gooey Jelly.
- **Sweet Treat** – if safe to do so encourage the children to taste the sensory bin jelly and sand.

Some children might be hesitant at first. The cold, squishy Jelly might seem a little “yucky” to them. And that’s totally fine! allow time for them to explore with their eyes first. Let them ease into the sensory experience at their own pace. Give them spoons to start picking out a fish or two, or encourage them to dip their fingers into the gooey mess to find those hidden treasures

