



Road map to Progress EYFS – Sand Skills

2-3 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore sand using hands, feet and simple tools.
- Pat, squeeze, dig and scatter sand.
- Fill and empty buckets and containers.
- Notice how sand feels and moves.

SPRING

- Use scoops, buckets and spades independently.
- Transport sand between containers.
- Pour sand with increasing control.
- Explore wet and dry sand.

SUMMER

- Build simple mounds and piles.
- Combine sand and water with support.
- Make marks and patterns in sand.
- Use mathematical language such as big and small.

3-4 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore dry and wet sand using hands and simple tools.
- Fill, empty, scoop and pour using containers.
- Develop vocabulary such as full, empty, wet, dry, more, less.
- Begin to use buckets, spades and moulds independently.

SPRING

- Compare wet and dry sand.
- Transport sand between containers with increasing control.
- Begin making simple sandcastles and mounds.
- Explore capacity through filling different-sized containers.

SUMMER

- Build and adapt simple structures.
- Combine sand and water to achieve a desired effect.
- Compare quantities using mathematical language.
- Choose appropriate tools for a purpose.



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Reception

AUTUMN

- Construct more detailed and stable structures.
- Compare, order and estimate quantities of sand.
- Use mathematical vocabulary such as heavier, lighter, more, less, full, empty.
- Explain what they are building and why.

SPRING

- Predict what will happen when changing the amount of water added to sand.
- Adapt structures to improve stability.
- Measure using non-standard units.
- Test ideas and evaluate outcomes.

SUMMER

- Design and create purposeful structures independently.
- Use sand within small-world and imaginative play scenarios.
- Estimate, measure and compare quantities confidently.
- Explain findings from investigations.