

# Sensory Play

- Ensure all staff and children wash their hands before and after sensory play activities
- Do not eat or drink while participating in sensory play or arts & crafts activities.
- All sensory play materials must be age-appropriate and safe for use by children.
- Use tubs / bins / surfaces that have been cleaned and disinfected. Containers should be cleaned and disinfected after each use and prior to refilling
- Empty water play tub / bin (or individual bin) after each use. Once emptied clean and disinfect the tables
- Store reusable sensory materials in covered containers
- Discard used homemade play dough daily
- Play dough must be made from non-toxic materials
- Sand purchased for play tables should be labelled as play sand and must be silica-free
- Food sensory play items such as dry pasta or rice must be stored in labelled containers with tight fitting lids. These items should not be stored with food intended for consumption. Discard dry food products at least weekly or immediately if they become wet or contaminated

## *Sensory play during an outbreak*

- **SUSPEND** communal sensory play during an outbreak until the outbreak is declared over by Toronto Public Health
- Any sensory play items prepared and in use prior to an outbreak being declared must be discarded (e.g., play dough and dried food items). Clean and disinfect all sensory play tubs and bins
- Advisable to stop sensory play during increased absenteeism

# Notes

## *Examples of sensory play materials include:*

- Water, dry pasta, store-bought sand, play dough, clean snow, pine cones, twigs and leaves

## *Examples of sensory play materials not recommended:*

- Sand, gravel, soil and other materials obtained from outdoor locations that may be contaminated
- Used meat trays, egg cartons and toilet paper rolls
- Garden soil containing fertilizers, manure or other products containing possible fecal matter or chemicals

Information about toy and product safety can be found on the Government of Canada's Consumer product safety [webpage](#).

For more information, please visit Toronto Public Health's Infection Prevention & Control Measures [webpage](#).