



play sand

Make playtime more colorful!

101 creative ideas

Learn.
Create.
Explore.

3+

Create. Learn. Explore. Play.

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What can you Create?

1. Create a collage of tissue paper, pompoms, and colored sand!

Spread Crayola School Glue on Crayola Construction Paper with fingers. Make a collage of tissue paper pieces and colored pompoms on the paper. Sprinkle brightly colored Crayola Play Sand over the entire collage. Shake off the extra sand.

2. Add sand to Crayola Washable Finger Paint for textured art experiences!

Sprinkle colored sand onto finger paint designs. Dry.



3. Design an old CD with circles of colorful Crayola Play Sand and birdseed!

Squeeze a circle of Crayola School Glue around the center circle of the CD. Sprinkle colored sand on the glue. Squeeze a circle around that then sprinkle birdseed over the glue. Repeat to create concentric circles of sand and seed.

4. Make colored pinecones!

Dab Crayola School Glue onto pinecones. Sprinkle colored sand over pinecones. Dry. Add a string to hang pinecones on a long stick for a window decoration or decorate a holiday tree.

5. Create a sand scene with Crayola Glitter Glue and Crayola Play Sand!

Draw a scene of sky and land on Crayola Construction Paper. Use fingers to spread glue over one area at a time. Sprinkle sand from a spoon over the area and shake off extra. When all areas are covered with sand, add glitter glue details and outlines.

6. Design sand-painted cardboard shapes!

A grown-up can cut recycled cardboard into shapes. Spread Crayola School Glue on each shape with fingers. Sprinkle sand over each shape. Dry. Use shapes to play shape recognition games. Or combine shapes to create different figures, such as a house, a dog, or a tree.

7. Make a nature collage with Crayola Play Sand, stones, sticks, and leaves!

Glue items to a piece of recycled cardboard. Sprinkle colored sand over "glue-y" areas to add color.

8. Construct a photo frame with dry pasta, feathers and Crayola Play Sand!

Attach dry pasta noodles and colored feathers to a wood craft frame using Crayola School Glue. Dab glue onto any uncovered areas of the frame. Sprinkle several sand colors onto the glue. Dry.



9. Add color to a potted plant!

Plant seeds in cups of soil or start with a plant growing in a pot. Spoon Crayola Play Sand over the top of the soil for color. Use a small spoon or straw to make a colorful sand design on the soil.

10. Have fun with traditional sand art!

Gather small, clean, plastic jars with lids. Fill jars with layers of colored sand. Use straws and sticks to push layers into peaks and valleys around the inner sides of the jar.

11. Construct sand and bark rubbing plates to make crayon rubbings!

Glue flat pieces of bark to recycled cardboard from cereal boxes. Cover open areas with glue and sprinkle sand over them. Dry. Place paper over the sand and bark and rub over it with the side of an unwrapped crayon.

12. Make sand cast designs with plaster of Paris!

Fill a small box with wet Crayola Play Sand. Make a pattern in the sand using a Crayola Colored Pencil or a stick. Mix plaster of Paris according to package directions then quickly pour over your designs into the box. When hard, lift gently out of the box to reveal your design.

13. Sculpt with sand dough!

Mix 2 cups sand + 1 cup cornstarch + 1 cup water. Build a sculpture then air dry.

14. Create paper plate sand flowers with an acorn in the middle!

Glue an acorn to the center of a paper plate. Draw flower petals around the acorn with Crayola School Glue. Spoon colorful Crayola Play Sand over the petals. Dry. Cut away the paper plate between the petals.

15. Mix Crayola Play Sand into Crayola Washable Paint to make a masterpiece with texture!

Spoon paint colors into the cups in a recycled egg carton. Mix colored sand into each paint color with a toothpick or popsicle stick. Paint your own textured design.

16. Add colorful Crayola Play Sand to white Crayola Model Magic modeling compound!

Knead pinches of colored sand into white modeling material. Add more sand for more color. Form modeling compound into a creature. Add wiggle eyes with Crayola School Glue.

17. Sand paint on rocks!

Place rock on a paper plate. Draw designs or faces on rocks of all sizes with Crayola School Glue. Spoon Crayola Play Sand over the rocks. Dry.

18. Sand paint your name on sand paper!

Use Crayola School Glue and a paint brush to paint your name on a sheet of sand paper. Spoon a different sand color on each letter. Shake off extra sand. Outline each letter with Crayola Glitter Glue.

19. Make sand play clay!

Combine 1 c flour + 1/2 cup salt + 1/4 cup sand + 1/2 cup water. Mix with hands. Store in a sealed container.



20. Design a colorful bug!

In a tray, baking pan, or box lid, spoon different colors of Crayola Play Sand in different areas. Be sure every space is covered with sand. Tear or use Crayola Scissors to cut a large oval from a piece of Crayola Construction Paper to make the bug's body. Squeeze Crayola School Glue on the paper, using your fingers to spread a thin layer of glue over the entire oval. Turn the oval over and press it glue-side down onto the sand. Lift and shake off extra sand into the tray. Cut legs and eyes for your bug from construction paper.

21. Make sand putty!

Combine 1 cup powdered corn starch + 1/2 cup cold water. Next add 2 cups sand, mixing it in with your hands. Press into molds and form into shapes.

22. Create a sandy spider web!

Hold a bottle of Crayola School Glue over a piece of Crayola Construction Paper and moving it around quickly to create a web design. Drop spoonfuls of different Crayola Play Sand colors on wet glue lines. Dry.

23. Design a magnet!

Sand paint a pre-cut wooden shape using Crayola School Glue and Crayola Play Sand. Seal the dry sand painting with craft acrylic sealer. Dry. Attach a self-stick magnet to the back of your creation.

24. Send a message in a bottle!

Cover the bottom of a clear plastic bottle with Crayola Play Sand. Write a message on Crayola Construction Paper. Roll up the message and tie a ribbon around it. Place the message in the bottle. Add small shells, bells, beads, or sequins to the bottle then close and seal with masking tape. Deliver or mail message in a bottle. (Great as a birthday greeting or picnic invitation!)

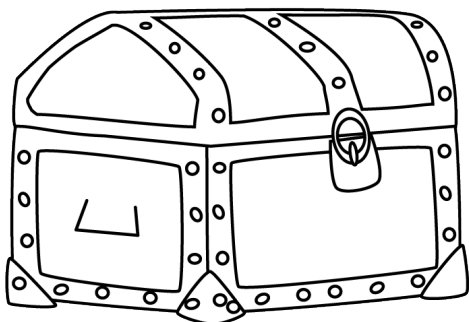


25. Make textured leaf rubbings!

Sprinkle sand on a tray. Lay a leaf or two over the sand. Cover with a piece of Crayola Construction Paper. Rub the side of an unwrapped Crayola Crayon over paper.

26. Draw textured colored pencil designs!

Sprinkle sand on a tray. Place drawing paper over sand. Draw designs on paper with a Crayola Colored Pencil.



27. Construct a colorful treasure box!

Use fingers to spread Crayola Glue on one side of a small, lidded box. Press the side into a container of Crayola Play Sand. Repeat with all sides of the box. Dry. Attach gems with glue or add designs with Crayola Glitter Glue.

28. Create a colorful beach scene!

Use Crayola Play Sand, cotton balls, and pieces of cellophane and tissue paper to design a beach scene.

29. Create clear colored sand jars!

Spread glue inside plastic jars using fingers and paint brushes. Spoon Crayola Play Sand into the jar. Put on lid and shake. Add more sand as needed to cover the inside of the jar. Make jars of different colors. Arrange the jars in front of a sunny window.



30. Make symmetrical sand designs!

Fold a piece of Crayola Construction Paper in half. Make a design on one side using Crayola School Glue. Fold the paper to print the glue design onto the other side of the paper. Spoon colored sand onto each sand design. Repeat, adding designs and colors to the paper.



**31. Put together a fun mini fish tank!
(No food or filter required.)**

Spoon sand into the bottom of a clear, clean plastic jar with a lid. Toss in a few pebbles or shells. Use Crayola Markers to draw fish small enough to fit inside the jar. Tape short pieces of string to each fish. Tape the other ends to the jar lid. Put fish in jar then put on lid. See fish "swim".

Let's Learn!

32. 1, 2, 3!

Practice writing numbers in the sand with your finger. Place the pebbles, beads, or marbles in the same amount on each number!

33. Bury plastic letters in a tray of dry sand!

Can you find the whole alphabet?

34. Play with color patterns!

Use a spoon to drop colored sand into tray to make a pattern of colors. Can you "play" the pattern using musical instruments?

35. Discover solids, liquids, and gases!

Gather solids (river rocks), liquids (water), and gases (fill a balloon) then compare with Crayola Play Sand, a solid that flows like a liquid.



36. Look at sand through a magnifying glass or microscope!

Draw pictures of what you see using Crayola Crayons.

37. Make sand letters for sensory games!

Paint letters with glue on recycled cardboard. Cover each letter with sand. Dry. Practice naming and tracing letters with fingers.

38. Practice measuring and counting!

Scoop and pour sand into bowls, cups, and scoops of different sizes! Ask questions like, "How many scoops will fill this bowl?"

39. Create your own sand stories!

Place colored sand in a large bowl. Gather 3 to 5 small figures or toys. As you move toys around the bowl, tell stories about them.

40. Capture your shadow!

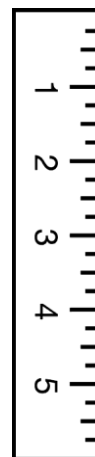
On a sunny day, make a shadow on the grass, on a sidewalk, or in the sandbox outside. Ask a friend or family member to outline the shadow using a straw to pick up and drop colored sand around the outline. Stand in the same place to check your shadow an hour later. What do you see?

41. Read with your fingers!

Ask a friend or family member to spell out a word in wet sand then close your eyes and "read" it with your fingers.

42. Measure hand and foot prints!

Spread a deep layer of Crayola Play Sand in a tray or box. Press your hand or foot into the sand to make a print in wet or dry sand. Use a ruler to measure your footprint and handprint in the sand.



43. Make your own water and sand table!

Fill one dishpan with water and another with sand. Place side by side outdoors. Use small paper cups and plastic spoons to have fun with sand and water.

44. Watch the wind at work!

On a very windy day, drop a line of colored sand on a sidewalk, smooth deck, or safe driveway and see the wind at work as it blows the lines of sand about.

Time to Play!

45. Message in the desert!

Write letters and words in dry sand with a Crayola Colored Pencil or a stick. Can your friends or family members read your message?

46. Set up sand clues for a treasure hunt in your yard!

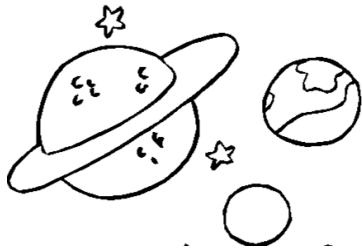
Hide a treasure in your yard. Scoop piles or lines of colored sand to lead treasure hunters from place to place. Follow the trail of colors of sand around your yard to find the hidden treasure.

47. Create an airport!

Create landing and take-off strips with colored sand. Gather toy airplanes for take-offs and landings.

48. Be an archaeologist!

Hide then dig for "fossils" in a bucket of colorful sand. Bury plastic animals or a number of small objects from a junk drawer.



49. Play space explorer!

Create a new planet in a tray or sandbox. Swirl two sand colors to create a space landscape. Use toy figures to explore the planet. Add a few ice cubes to the sand as new features to investigate.

50. Do some construction work!

Gather small trucks build roads of colored sand. Smooth out areas of the sand box or large tray with a flat shovel to build roads. Cover each road with a new sand color, dumping sand from the back of a dump truck. Drive cars and trucks on your colorful new roads.

51. Cooperate with a friend to build a sand village!

Find natural objects, such as pebbles, sticks, leaves, and pine branches. Work together with a friend to design a sand village in a tray of colorful Crayola Play Sand.

52. Play hide and seek!

Count then place pebbles or beads in a bowl of colored sand. Scoop sand through a sieve to see if you can find every single pebble.

53. Be a map-maker!

Create a town using blocks for buildings, little pine tree branches for trees, and craft sticks for fences. Use Crayola Crayons and paper to make a map of your town. Can you follow the map to recreate the town another day?

54. Build canals!

Dig trenches in dry sand with your hand. Fill the bottom of each trench with a different sand color.

55. Hunt for treasure in dry sand!

Bury buttons in dry sand. How fast can you find them all?



56. Hunt for treasure in wet sand!

Bury buttons in wet sand. How fast can you find them all? Is it easier to hunt for treasure in wet sand or dry sand? What tools might make the hunt easier?

57. Make a sand shaker instrument!

Scoop colored sand into a small plastic jar or other sealed container. What kind of music can you make? Can you shake a rhythm? What other items could you put in a jar to make a different sound?

58. Build little sand cities!

Cut tops off of empty, clean juice boxes. Fill each with wet sand in different colors. Turn upside down outdoors or on a tray to make a bright little sand city.

59. Make paths in colored sand with colored aquarium rocks!

Take "walks" along the paths with small animal or people figures.

60. Build a marine dock!

Bury a plastic bowl in a tray or sandbox of colored sand. Fill the bowl with water and float toy boats or foam pieces in the water.

61. Plant an imaginary garden!

Make flowers using tissue paper and Crayola Colored Pencils or craft sticks. "Plant" flowers in colored sand. Arrange and rearrange your garden. Hold garden tours.

62. Play a memory game!

Hide matching pairs of objects (2 number cubes, 2 barrettes, 2 matching marbles, 2 matching beads, 2 matching buttons, 2 matching plastic caps) in colored sand. Reach in and find 2 objects. If they match, keep them. If not, bury them again. Take turns with a friend. How many pairs can you find?

63. Create an African safari!

Add plastic animals from the savannah, cars, and a bowl of water to a tray or sandbox of colored sand.

64. Play color games!

Make spots of colored sand in a sandbox or tray. Move figures from area to area by naming colors.

65. Create a desert!

Make lizards from clean, recycled produce trays. Design with Crayola Markers. Bury lizards in colored sand or make them slither and scurry around in their own multicolored desert.

66. Be a farmer!

Build a farm in colored sand with plastic animals and barns made from recycled boxes. Create corrals for animals with chenille wire or ribbon.

67. Be an ocean explorer!

Imagine the sandbox or sand tray is a sandy sea bottom. Gather bath toys and household objects to be the sea creatures living at the bottom of the ocean.

68. Make a frog pond!

Place a bowl of water in the middle of your sand box or sand tray. Make frog bogs of colored sand around the water hole. Gather rubber frogs for some hopping good fun.

69. Be an animal tamer!

Gather a variety of plastic animals. Use craft sticks to create fences for animal pens in a sandbox or sand tray. Sort animals into different pens according to type, size, or color. Provide food and water in the form of different sand colors for each kind of animal.

70. Discover rivers, lakes, and lagoons!

Wet sand in a bin or bowl. Use fingers or plastic utensils to dig lakes and seas, rivers and inlets. Sprinkle colored sand into each body of water. Fill each one with water. What happens?

71. Make sand turtles!

Fill small, plastic bowls and buckets of various sizes with wet colored sand. Turn bowls over into a sandbox or onto a sand tray to build a turtle.

72. Use your imagination!

Pour colored sand into a tray or sandbox. What can you play using: toothpicks, cotton, feathers, and plastic animals?

73. Sail the ocean blue!

Fill a tray or sandbox with blue Crayola Play Sand. Gather boats and submarines of all shapes and sizes. Sail around the sea.

74. Dig and dump!

Use shovels and dump trucks to move colored sand from one area of the sandbox to another.

75. Visit your own amusement park!

Design an amusement park in wet colored sand. Make each attraction a different color. Take photos of your park. Tell a story about an adventure there.

Lots to Explore!

76. Go fishing!

Make paper fish using crayons and paper. Attach a large metal clip to each fish. Bury your fish in dry colored sand. Can you catch all of your fish with a magnet?

77. Pretend to be a cook!

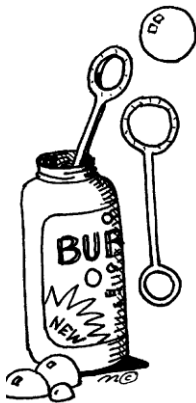
Combine colored sand in paper bowls with rocks, broken sticks, water, grass, large buttons, etc.



78. Create bead and shell designs in wet sand!

Dampen sand in a tray with a spray bottle. Etch a design in wet sand with a stick. Press in beads and shells to give your design colorful details.

79. What happens when you blow bubbles on dry sand?



80. Dig it!

Bury ping pong balls in colored sand. Can you get them out of the sand using tongs?

81. Press cookie cutters in wet sand!

82. Draw in shallow dry sand with a stick!

83. Draw in shallow wet sand with a plastic fork!

84. Draw with sand!

Scoop colored sand into a small plastic bag. Hold the bag over a tray of sand that is a different color. Cut off one small corner of the bag. Draw with the flowing sand.

85. Make a drip castle!

Combine sand and water in a bowl. Hold very wet sand in your hand and drop it out of the pinky side of your fist onto a tray. As it drips, create skinny castle towers.

86. Fun with funnels!

Fill small containers with sand of different colors using funnels, spoons, and scoops.

87. Flat is where it's at!

Fill a tray with wet colored sand or add water to colored sand in a sandbox. Build hills and dig valleys. Then flatten them using your hands or a ruler.

88. Impress patterns!

Make patterns with plastic forks, spoons, and shoe bottoms on wet, colored sand. Smooth sand with a ruler by gliding it across to erase a pattern and start again.

89. Make an impression!

Press imprints in wet sand with blocks, combs, rocks, shells, and cookie cutters (wash items in hot water before re-using).



90. Play in sand with old socks!

Scoop sand into old socks (even ones with holes - or poke holes in them on purpose!) Watch the sand stream through holes. Stack the sand-filled socks. Or wear empty socks on your hands to move sand around.

91. Form sand balls!

Experiment with how much water to add to dry, colored sand to be able to scoop a handful to make a sand ball.

92. Sketch sand drawings!

Spread a thin layer of sand in a box lid or on a tray. Use fingers to draw, write, or create temporary artwork as the lid surface shows through.

93. Bake sand cakes!

Press wet colored sand into an old cupcake tin. Turn out sand cakes into the sandbox or on a tray. Decorate each sand cake with colored beads or pieces of string. Compare and weigh sand cakes on a balance scale.

94. Be a super scooper!

Scoop wet, colored sand with a melon ball scoop and ice cream scoop.

95. Make a snow garden!

"Paint" colored sand on newly-fallen snow. Use scoops and straws to drop sand in designs on snow. Create a garden or add color to a snowman.

96. Find the snow monster!

Create humongous colored sand footprints in newly fallen snow. Use a funnel to drop sand in different shapes.

97. Swing the sand!

Poke three holes around the sides of a paper cup. Tie string through the holes so you can swing the cup from the string. Poke another hole in the bottom of the cup. Prepare a tray to catch sand. Fill the cup with sand and swing it over the tray. What shape does the swinging sand make?

98. Capture nuts and washers!

Bury nuts and washers (from Dad's tool box) in a bucket or sandbox of colored sand. Use a pencil or stick to pick up each nut and washer you find. Can you pick them up by poking the pencil through the hole?



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