

Circle Time Lessons

Unit overview

Day 1 Introduction

Introduce the new unit: **Earth Day**.
Talk about Earth. Sing the song "Earth" to the tune of *Bingo*.

Day 2 Water

Look at the real pictures of bodies of water. Sing the "Clean Water" song and take a class poll.

Day 3 Land

Look at the real pictures of the different types of land masses. Sort pictures into 2 groups and sing the action song "Adventure Time."

Day 4 Plants and Trees

Look at the real pictures. Sort pictures into 2 groups. Sing the song "Planting Time."

Day 5 Pollution

Look at the real pictures of the different types of pollution. Sing the "Pollution" song and play the carpet game "Too Much Trash."

The Earth Our Planet

The Earth is the third planet from the Sun and is our home. The Earth is a fantastic place with beautiful seasons and stunning landscapes. Taking care of our world is essential to all of the plants and animals that live here.

Objectives:

- The students will answer questions.
- The students will play with words and sounds.

Activities:

- Examine the pictures of the Earth. Engage in discussion questions. Can you see the oceans? Can you see the land?
- Sing the C-o-u-n-t-h song in the tune of "Bingo." Display the letters C-o-u-n-t-h and sing the song. After singing the song for the first time, cover up the letter **g** with a picture of the ocean. Sing the second verse as "h-u-c-h, o-u-n-t-h."

Extension Idea: Teach the ASL sign for Earth. Use the hand sign: hold finger in the dominant hand to show the earth. Repeat with the other hand.



Water Oceans, Lakes and Rivers

Oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams cover 70% of the Earth's surface. There are many fish and animals that live in water. We use water for drinking, washing, growing food, and cooking. It is very important to take care of the oceans and rivers.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.
- The students will use new vocabulary.

Activities:

- Show real-life photographs. Ask students if they have ever been to a river, lake or the ocean. What do they notice that is the same or different about the bodies of water?
- Take a poll: "Have you ever been to the ocean?" Students will use name cards or play a name to show their answer on a dot marker.

Class Poll:

Have you ever been to the ocean?	Yes	No
Just	Diamond	
Sam	Penny	
Sharon	Richard	
Jack		



Land Mountains, Plains and Valleys

The hard surface that covers Earth is called land. The land has mountains, hills, valleys, plateaus, plains, and deserts. Without land, people would have nowhere to live!

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will demonstrate basic locomotor skills.
- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.

Activities:

- Show the photographs of the different landforms and ask questions. What is similar about the different types of land? What is different about the landforms?
- Sort the pictures into 2 groups. Things that live on land and things that live in the oceans.
- Sing the song "Adventure Time." Perform the actions in the song.

Extension Idea: Teach the ASL sign for land. Have students stand up on their hands and feet. Have them crawl from their hands and feet to their feet. Have them crawl from their hands and feet to their feet.



Plants and Trees Provide Oxygen

Plants and trees grow in almost every part of the planet, even in very hot or cold environments. Trees and plants are essential in keeping the Earth healthy by providing the oxygen we breathe, removing pollution from the air, and giving shelter to animals. Caring for trees will help take care of our home.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will sort objects by property.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Examine the real pictures. Engage in discussion questions. Do you have trees in your neighborhood? What kind of plants have you seen?
- Sort pictures into 2 groups: Things that grow in soil and things that grow in water.

Class Poll:

Do you have trees in your neighborhood?	Yes	No
Just	Diamond	
Sam	Penny	
Sharon	Richard	
Jack		



Pollution Harmful to the Environment

Pollution is when gases, smoke, and chemicals are released into the environment. We need air and clean water to survive. When the oceans, rivers, land, and air get dirty, it is called pollution. Keeping our planet clean from pollution is essential to keeping us healthy.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will identify shapes.

Activities:

- Look at the real pictures of different types of pollution. Engage in discussion questions. How do the pictures make you feel?
- Sing the "Pollution" song as a class to the tune of "Too Much Trash Song."
- Play the shape identification game called "Too Much Trash."

Extension Idea: Teach the ASL sign for trash. Use the hand sign: point to yourself with palm facing down. Using the opposite palm, finger, thumb, and index, show the trash. Repeat with the other hand.



Circle Time Lessons

Unit overview

Day 6 Taking Care of Earth

Talk about ways you can take care of the Earth while practicing concepts of print. Sing the "Planet Hero" song.

Taking Care of Earth
Working Together to Save the Planet

The Earth is the only home that we have, so it is important to take care of it and its resources. There are some simple ways that we can work together to help save our planet, for example, turning out lights, recycling instead of using our when we eat, and recycling old toys.

Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will use new vocabulary.

Activities:

- Read "The Earth" story. Add each of the sentences to the booklet chart. Use the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line. Take turns pointing to each word as you read the story.
- Sing the verses of the song "Planet Hero." The students can pick a card to show how they would like to save the planet and be a "Planet Hero."

Extension Idea: Read the beautiful picture of the Earth website and discuss art projects.

Day 6 lesson plans

Day 7 Recycling

Look at the real pictures of recycling. Sort pictures into 4 groups. Practice logical thinking skills by playing the recycling "Grid Game."

Recycling
Using Waste Materials to Make New Things

Recycling materials is a wonderful way to keep the environment clean and protect our planet. Many things can be recycled and made into something brand new. Look for the ♻️ symbol on products.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.
- The students will sort objects by color.

Activities:

- Examine the real photographs. Engage in discussion questions. Why should we recycle?
- Play the "Recycling Grid Game."
- Select a working or different household items provided to only 2 groups for 10 minutes.

To Play:

- Using various objects or pictures (cups or saucers).
- Children to pick several each object that the same color and place them at the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the song.
- Students take their eyes and write the object names in each.
- Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which color their appearance is missing.

Which one is missing?

Day 7 lesson plans

Day 8 Energy Sources

Look at the real pictures of different energy sources. Recite the "5 Little Turbines" chip clip poem.

Energy Sources
Wind, Solar and Hydro (water)

Renewable energy is a resource that can be made again and again naturally. Using different types of renewable energy can help to put less pollution into the environment. If we use wind, solar (sun), and hydro (water) energy, we can help protect our planet.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will play with words, sounds and rhymes.
- The students will count to 5.

Activities:

- Look at the real pictures of the different types of renewable energy sources and engage in discussion questions. How do the wind turbines work? Have you ever seen solar panels?
- Sing the song "Power." Explain that we can use natural resources to generate power to make electricity for our homes.
- Recite the chip clip poem "5 Little Turbines." Add a turbine to the list after reading each verse.

Extension Idea: Read the beautiful picture of the Earth website and discuss art projects.

Day 8 lesson plans

Day 9 Earth's Resources

Look at the real pictures of things that the Earth provides. Sing the song "Earth's Resources." Go on a scavenger hunt.

Earth's Resources
Gifts from the Earth

The beauty of the Earth, such as trees, animals, and unique landscapes, is all around us. There is no other planet like it. Earth provides the food we eat, the water we drink, and shelter for us to live in.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will observe objects with curiosity.

Activities:

- Examine the real pictures of some of the resources the Earth provides. Engage in discussion questions. What else comes from the Earth that we can eat? What other items are made from wood?
- Sing the song "Earth's Resources."

Extension Idea: Read the beautiful picture of the Earth website and discuss art projects.

Day 9 lesson plans

Day 10 Conclusion

Conclude the Earth Day unit by creating a knowledge chart. Take a class poll.

Conclusion
Unit Conclusion

To conclude the unit, ask the students what they have learned about taking care of the planet.

Objectives:

- The students will understand the purpose of writing.
- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.

Activities:

- Invite students to list the things they have learned about Earth. Write the ideas on index cards or on the Earth shapes provided.
- Take a poll "What have you done to help the Earth?" Students use home cards or post-it notes to show their answer on a bar graph. Alternatively, they can make a pictograph graph by taping up behind the different headings.

Extension Idea: Make an Earth Day poster by drawing or writing. Write each in the air. Ask children to use for thinking or group to think or group to think. If possible, have one student and one teacher to observe.

Day 10 lesson plans

The Earth

Our Planet

Day 1
Lesson
Plans

The Earth is the third planet from the Sun and is our home. The Earth is a fantastic place with beautiful oceans and stunning landscapes. Taking care of our world is essential to all of the plants and animals that live here.

Objectives:

- The students will answer questions.
- The students will play with words and sounds.

Activities:

1. Examine the pictures of the Earth. Engage in discussion questions. Can you see the oceans? Can you see the land?
2. Sing the E-a-r-t-h song in the tune of "Bingo." Display the letters E-a-r-t-h and sing the song. After singing the song for the first time, cover up the letter E with a picture of the child. Sing the second verse as "Yeah!, a-r-t-h."



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **Earth**. Use the thumb and index finger on the dominant hand to pinch the other hand's wrist and rock fingers back and forth.



Water

Oceans, Lakes and Rivers

Oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams cover 70% of the Earth's surface. There are many fish and animals that live in water. We use water for drinking, washing, growing food, and cooking. It is very important to take care of the oceans and rivers.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.
- The students will use new vocabulary.

Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs. Ask students if they have ever been to a river, lake or the ocean. What do they notice that is the same or different about the bodies of water?
2. Take a poll: "Have you ever been to the ocean?"
Students will use name cards or post-it notes to show their answer on a bar graph. Alternatively, they can make a physical graph by lining up behind the different headings.

3. Sing the song "Clean Water."



Extension Idea: Clean water experiment

Use a clear container and fill with clean water. Add small pieces of trash and a little dirt. Ask the students to predict what will happen to the water. This will need to be left for a couple of days to show the pollution.



Clean Water

To the tune of "London Bridge"

I will take care of the sea,
Of the sea, of the sea.

I will take care of the sea!
Plants and animals live there.

I won't throw trash in the sea,
In the sea, in the sea.

I won't throw trash in the sea!
Let's keep the water nice and clean.

Have you ever been to the ocean?

<p>Yes, I have.</p>	<p>No, not yet.</p>
Juliet	Desmond
Ben	Penny
Shannon	Richard
	Jack

Land

Mountains, Plains and Valleys

Day 3
lesson
plans

The hard surface that covers Earth is called land. The land has mountains, hills, valleys, plateaus, plains, and deserts. Without land, people would have nowhere to live!

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will demonstrate basic locomotor skills.
- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.

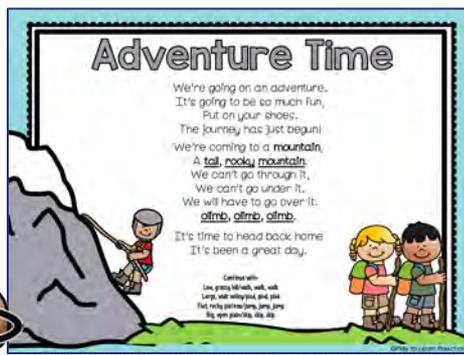
Activities:

1. Show the photographs of the different landforms and ask questions. What is similar about the different types of land? What is different about the landforms?
2. Sort the pictures into 2 groups: Things that live on land and things that live in the ocean.
3. Sing the song "Adventure Time." Perform the actions in the song.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **land**. Pinch fingers together on both hands. Pull them away from your body and move your hands in front of you to form 2 small circles to signify land.



Plants and Trees

Provide Oxygen

Day 4
lesson
plans

Plants and trees grow in almost every part of the planet, even in very hot or cold environments. Trees and plants are essential in keeping the Earth healthy by providing the oxygen we breathe, removing pollution from the air, and giving shelter to animals. Caring for trees will help take care of our home.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will sort objects by property.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Examine the real pictures. Engage in discussion questions. Do you have trees in your neighborhood? What kind of plants have you seen?
2. Sort pictures into 2 groups: Things that grow in soil and things that do not grow in soil.
3. Sing the song "Planting Time" and perform the actions as you sing the song.

Trees are important for the environment. They absorb pollution and make oxygen for us to breathe.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **tree**. Lay one arm in front you like the ground. Raise other arm upwards and rotate like a tree swaying in the wind.



Pollution

Harmful to the Environment

Pollution is when gases, smoke, and chemicals are released into the environment. We need air and clean water to survive. When the oceans, rivers, land, and air get dirty, it is called pollution. Keeping our planet clean from pollution is essential to keeping us healthy.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will identify shapes.

Activities:

1. Look at the real pictures of different types of pollution. Engage in discussion questions. How do the pictures make you feel?
2. Sing the "Pollution" song as a class to the tune of "I'm a Little Tea Pot."
3. Play the shape identification game called "Too Much Trash."

Sometimes chemicals are released into water by factories or farms. This is called water pollution.



Air pollution is when harmful gases are released into the air by cars.

Using less plastic, recycling, and reusing items can help reduce the amount of trash.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **trash**. Use the non-dominant hand to lay flat with palm facing down. Using the other hand's pointer finger, touch 2 times along the outstretched arm to form an outline of a trash bag.



Taking Care of Earth

Working Together to Save the Planet

Day 6
lesson
plans

The Earth is the only home that we have, so it is important to take care of it and its resources. There are some simple ways that we can work together to help save our planet, for example, turning out lights, walking instead of using a car when we can, and donating old toys.

Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will use new vocabulary.

Activities:

1. Read “The Earth” story. Add each sentence to the pocket chart. Use the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line. Take turns pointing to each word as you read the story.
2. Sing the verses of the song “Planet Hero.” The students can pick a card to show how they would like to save the planet and be a “Planet Hero”



Extension Idea:

Make this beautiful picture of the Earth with this fun process art project.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/earth-day-art/>



Recycling

Using Waste Materials to Make New Things

Day 7
lesson
plans

Recycling materials is a wonderful way to keep the environment clean and protect our planet. Many things can be recycled and made into something brand new. Look for the 3 arrow symbol on products.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.
- The students will sort objects by size.

Activities:

1. Examine the real photographs. Engage in discussion questions. Why should we recycle?
2. Play the "Recycling Grid Game."
3. Collect a variety of different recyclable objects or use the pictures provided to sort into 4 groups. Use only 2 groups for younger children.



To Play:

1. Copy template page onto 5 different colors of paper.
2. Create a grid where each column has the same letter, and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
3. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
4. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **recycle**. Make the letter "R" with your dominant hand and then move hand in a circle.



Energy Sources

Wind, Solar and Hydro (water)

Day 8
lesson
plans

Renewable energy is a resource that can be made again and again naturally. Using different types of renewable energy can help to put less pollution into the environment. If we use wind, solar (sun), and hydro (water) energy, we can help protect our planet.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will play with words, sounds and rhymes.
- The students will count to 5.

Activities:

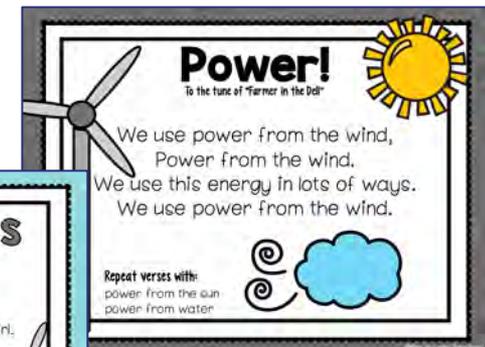
1. Look at the real pictures of the different types of renewable energy sources and engage in discussion questions. How do the wind turbines work? Have you ever seen solar panels?
2. Sing the song "Power." Explain that we can use natural resources to generate power to make electricity for our homes.
3. Recite the chip clip poem "5 Little Turbines." Add a turbine to the field after reading each verse.



Extension Idea:

Feather science experiment

Use wind power to make a feather move! Use different size feathers and a straw to see how far you can make the feather move.



Earth's Resources

Gifts from the Earth

Day 9
Lesson
Plans

The beauty of the Earth, such as trees, animals, and unique landscapes, is all around us. There is no other planet like it. Earth provides the food we eat, the water we drink, and shelter for us to live in.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will observe objects with curiosity.

Activities:

1. Examine the real pictures of some of the resources the Earth provides. Engage in discussion questions. What else comes from the Earth that we can eat? What other items are made from wood?
2. Sing the song "Earth's Resources."
3. Use the "Earth Scavenger Hunt" recording sheet to go on an outdoor scavenger hunt. (Or send it home for families to do together!)



Extension Idea:

Grow a vegetable garden. Some easy vegetables to start with are lettuce, cherry tomatoes, zucchini, and lettuce. Choose a sunny spot with well-drained soil. Using large pots is an alternative if space is limited.



Earth Scavenger Hunt			
 <input type="checkbox"/> sun	 <input type="checkbox"/> rocks	 <input type="checkbox"/> birds	 <input type="checkbox"/> flowers
 <input type="checkbox"/> cloud	 <input type="checkbox"/> bugs	 <input type="checkbox"/> tree	 <input type="checkbox"/> dirt

Conclusion

Unit Conclusion

Day 10
lesson
plans

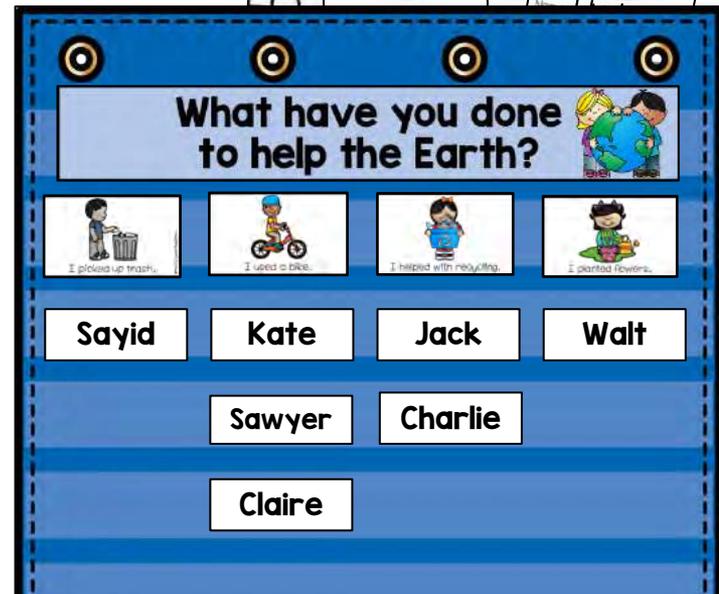
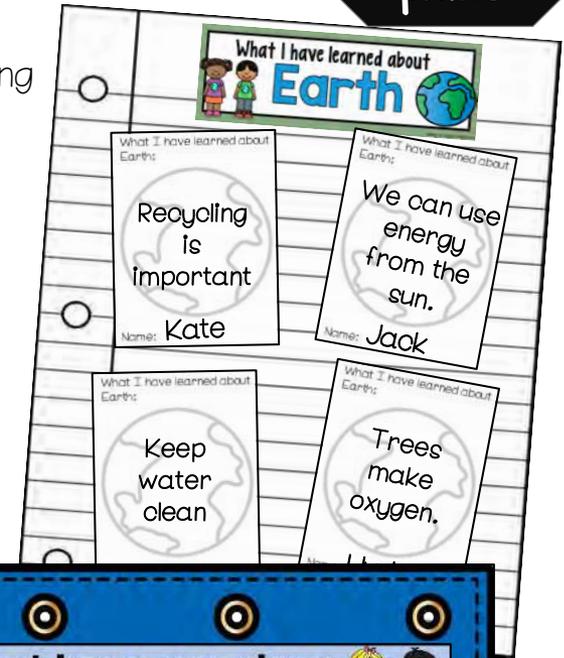
To conclude the unit, ask the students what they have learned about taking care of the planet.

Objectives:

- The students will understand the purpose of writing.
- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.

Activities:

1. Invite students to list the things they have learned about Earth. Write the ideas on index cards or on the Earth shapes provided.
2. Take a poll "What have you done to help the Earth?" Students use name cards or post-it notes to show their answer on a bar graph. Alternatively, they can make a physical graph by lining up behind the different headings.



Extension Idea:

Make an Earth day sensory bin using shredded paper sold in the pet store (often used for bedding for small animals) or paper from a shredder. Hide small toy animals and fish ready to be discovered.

Center Activities

Centers

- Line Tracing
- Writing Practice
- Journaling
- Beginning Sound Sort
- Shape Sorting
- Count & Clip Cards
- Patterning
- Visual Discrimination
- Cutting Practice
- Picture Puzzles
- Emergent Reader Book
- Letter Cards
- Book List (recommendations)

Line Tracing

Objective: The students will understand the purpose of writing.
Preparation: Print and laminate these tracing cards. Another option is to place them inside a plastic sleeve. Provide dry erase markers. (Glue a pom-pom into the lid of the marker (or the students to use as an eraser).)

Writing Practice

Objectives: The students will write letters.
Preparation: Copy each page and place into a plastic sleeve (or print on cardstock and laminate).
Procedure: Students use a dry erase marker to trace the word.

Journaling

Objective: The students will understand the purpose of writing.
Procedure: Print the journal sheets. Students can use the journal prompts to write and draw a picture. The words can also be written for the student if necessary.

Beginning Sound Sort

Objectives: The students will identify the beginning sound of each word.
Preparation: Copy the picture cards, glue the covers on the front, and the sorting mats on the inside. Cut and laminate the smaller pieces.
Procedure: Students sort the pictures by their beginning sound.

Shape Sorting

Objective: The students will sort objects by shape.
Preparation: Print, laminate and cut out the shapes.
Procedure: Students choose a picture and place the shape on the matching card.

Count and Clip Cards

Objective: Students will practice one-to-one correspondence and number recognition to 10.
Preparation: Print the cards, mat, laminate and cut apart.
Procedure: Students count the pictures on each card and mark the correct answer with a clothes pin.

Helpful Hint: For easy self-checking, cut a slit on the back that will reveal the clothes pin if the answer is correct.

Earth Day

Objective: Students will understand the purpose of writing.
Procedure: Print the Earth Day cards, laminate and cut apart. Send it by placing the next correct picture on the mat.

Visual Discrimination

Objective: The students will use visual discrimination skills to match the items.
Preparation: Copy the picture cards, glue the covers on the front, and the sorting mats on the inside. Cut and laminate the smaller pieces.
Procedure: Students place matching pictures together.

Picture Puzzles

Objective: Students will use fine motor skills to assemble the puzzle pieces together.
Preparation: Print, laminate and cut apart the puzzle pieces.
Procedure: Students assemble the puzzle pieces together.

Cutting Practice

Objective: Students will use fine motor skills to cut along the dotted lines.
Preparation: Print and laminate the cutting practice cards.
Procedure: The students will cut along the dotted lines from the bottom of the page to the top.

Emergent Reader

Objective: Students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts and letter recognition.
Preparation: Print the emergent reader cards, laminate and cut apart.
Procedure: Students use the cards to practice reading and writing.

Letter Cards

Objective: Students will understand the purpose of writing.
Preparation: Print the letter cards, laminate and cut apart. Use these Earth cards at the writing center, or at math center. The possibilities are endless.

Sensory Bases	Manipulatives
• salt	• mini erasere
• sand	• gems
• colored sand	• pom-poms
• flour	• googly eyes
• rice	• river rocks
• oats	• small counters
• corn starch	• coins
	• pony beads
	• bingo chips
	• paper clips
	• pipe cleaners

Caution: Use good judgment when deciding if the materials are appropriate for your age group. Always supervise children closely with sensory materials.