

MOST* *STEM* *Sensory Bins*

We at the MOST love sensory bins, and if you can't visit ours in the Earth Science Cave or STEM Story Time Room, you can easily create one at home! We've gathered our suggestions for creating a hands-on STEM sensory bin here, and we'll continue to add more.

Note: If you don't have sand, try one of the bins below that doesn't require any, or make your own moon sand by mixing 8 cups flour with 1 cup vegetable oil.



GEOLOGY BIN: Use sand, rocks, and fossils. (Hint: You can make your own fossils using our salt dough recipe!) Ask about what we can tell if one fossil is deeper in the sand than another, and how to describe or classify the specimens.

ARCHAEOLOGY BIN: Use coins, arrowheads, pots, or other household objects. Ask what you can tell from what a society leaves behind, and what our artifacts will say about us to future archaeologists.

PLANT SCIENCE BIN: Use beans, seeds, rice, oatmeal, and other small grains. Ask about how they feel different or the same, and discuss how each one grows differently (for example, rice is grown in rich, wet floodplains while oats grow best in dry soil).

ECOSYSTEM BIN: Use water, rocks, animal toys, moss, leaves, and other objects to create an ecosystem. Ask about what each plant and animal needs to live, what kind of climate they're creating (desert, forest, ocean, etc.), and how each organism is connected to the ecosystem.

MATH AND MEASURING BIN: Put a variety of objects in a bin. Ask about how many of each item there are, and have them make a bar graph or chart that compares the count of each item. You can also incorporate measuring cups/spoons to compare object counts and begin learning ratios (3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon, etc.)