

One Page Resources: Food for Non-Food Purposes

What's Wrong with the Rice Table and Macaroni Necklaces?

- Using food for non-food purposes violates the values of many families and cultures.
- Using food for non-food purposes is disrespectful to families currently struggling to make sure their children have enough to eat each night.
- Using food for artwork or sensory experiences promotes the spread of germs because young children are likely to put the food items in their mouths.
- Using food for non-food purposes causes confusion for children who are often told that food is for eating, not playing with or wasting.



Did you know:

44% of households with children report their family was not eating enough because couldn't afford food.

30% of children under 18 experience hunger in our state.

New Mexico ranks 1st in the US for childhood hunger

Road Runner Food Bank
fact Sheet www.rrfb.org

Ideas for Sensory Table Materials:

Water with funnels, plastic tubes, measuring cups and spoons, cups, buckets, egg beaters, whisks, plastic tubing, etc.

Soapy water with plastic dishes, pots and pans, sponges, dish rags, bottle brushes, and other items used to wash dishes.

Soapy water with empty shampoo bottles, wash cloths, plastic baby dolls, and dry bath towels for bathing babies.

Sand and water mixture with shovels, small rakes, plastic containers of various sizes (ex: sour cream, cool whip, margarine) to use to make sand castles.

Sand with small plastic animals to bury and dig up

Sand with shovels, funnels, measuring cups and spoons, buckets, etc.

Potting soil (without fertilizers) with small gardening tools, fake flowers, gardening gloves, small plastic watering cans, plastic plant containers, etc.

- Moon sand
- Plastic beads
- Styrofoam packing peanuts
- Pea gravel
- Wood shavings
- Metates & porous rocks
- Dryer lint for paper making
- Shredded paper or magazines with scissors

Ideas for Collage Materials:

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| Beads | Tissue paper |
| Buttons | Fabric scraps |
| Bottle tops | Styrofoam peanuts |
| Paper towel rolls | Natural items (leaves, twigs) |
| Magazines | Wrapping paper scraps |
| Ribbon | Rocks |
| Confetti | |
| Pipe cleaners | |
| Sequins | |
| Yarn | |



Ideas for Lacing Materials

- Beads, clay, magazine, etc.
- Buttons
- Pop tabs
- Washers/ bolts
- Cut pieces of drinking straws
- Spools

