

# One Page Resource: 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.rffb.org](http://www.rffb.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:

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

### Ideas for Lacing Materials

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

