

2-IN-1 SEEK & WRITE

SENSORY BIN

SET UP & PLAY!

CONTENTS

1 Sensory Bin with divider	4 oz of shredded paper	10 toy gold coins
1 Zen Garden lid	1 scoop	10 toy gems
1 lb of sand	2 tweezers	52 foam letters
1 wooden stylus	1 die	10 foam numbers
25 activity cards	10 toy bugs	1 bowl with lid
2 oz of water beads		

CHUCKLE
& ROAR



WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD - Small parts.
Not for children under 3 yrs.

AGES

3-6+

HELLO & THANKS!

Thank you for picking up our **2-in-1 Seek & Write Sensory Bin**. We worked with an *occupational therapist* and leaned on her expertise and experience during the development of this set so we could bring you something not only beneficial, but unique. Since she's the expert, we'll let her tell you what makes this sensory bin special in her own words:



"Sensory bins allow kids to work on their motor and cognitive skills. They can interact with a variety of textures for sensory processing. They can use their imagination to create their own play, or they can follow directions to have more structure."

"This sensory bin set is unique because it provides opportunities for both imaginative and structured play. The instruction cards provide guidance for how to interact with the bin to push learning skills forward. It provides modifications in order to be a universal activity for a variety of abilities."

▼ LET'S GET INTO THE FUN! ▼

ZEN GARDEN

The top portion of our bin was inspired by Montessori sand trays, but we like to call it the **Zen Garden** – a place where kids can not only play in the sand, but also develop fundamental motor skills through fun multisensory activities and exploration. The activity cards for the **Zen Garden** start with basic and core writing and drawing exercises and progress to more advanced writing skills.

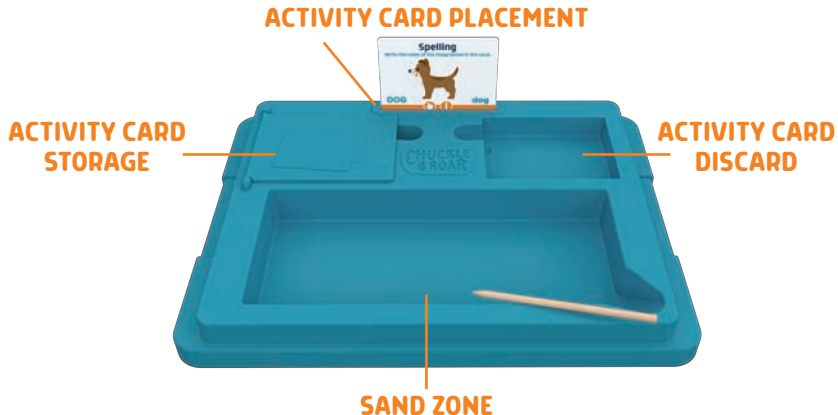


“The Zen Garden provides a tactile sensory experience, as well as opportunities to work on fine motor skills through drawing shapes, letters, and numbers. It provides the opportunity to engage directly with your hands in the sand, or use a stylus based on your unique sensory or motor needs.”

SET UP:

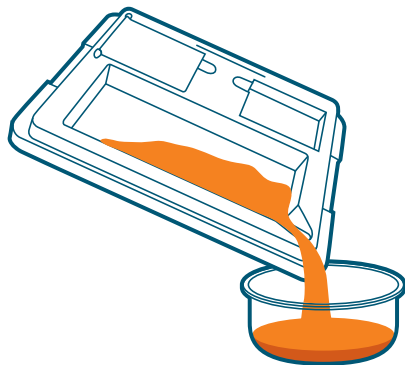
To get started, add the sand to the **sand zone**. Next, place the activity cards, orange side up, into the **activity card storage area** with the door. Pick an activity card from the deck, place it in the card slot, and complete the activity.

Zen Gardeners can practice as many times as they’d like. When they’re ready to move onto the next activity, remove the card from the slot and place it in the discard compartment on the right. Pick another card and keep the good times going!



SAND STORAGE:

When it comes time to pack away the **Zen Garden**, simply lift and tilt the lid to direct the sand toward the funnel in the bottom right corner into the provided bowl. We've included a snap-on lid for the bowl to help contain your sand until you are ready for your next sensory experience!



ACTIVITY CARD ICONS:

You'll notice these icons on the activity cards. This means the activity can be completed by using either a finger or the wooden stylus, depending on where your child is developmentally or what type of experience they prefer.



"Using their index finger allows your child to directly feel and interact with the sand for a more tactile experience. Using the stylus is great for those who aren't ready to put their hands directly in the sand, or for those who want to practice their grasp on a writing utensil."

Looking for fresh ideas? The cards from our **Chuckle & Roar Learning Blocks Set** or our **Learn & Play Flash Cards** are perfect sources for additional learning and play promptings. You can also create your own prompts and words using index cards.

SENSORY BIN

There are so many ways to use a sensory bin, from free play and exploration to developmental activities like the ones we've included on the cards.



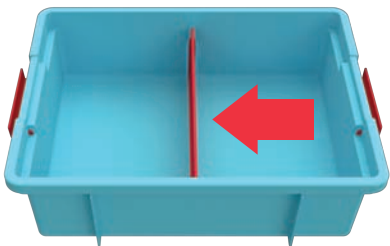
"Free play allows the imagination to drive the activity.

The structured activities help to work on following directions."

FILL & SET UP:

Before setting up the Sensory Bin for play, it's important to know what you want your child to do. If it's about pure sensory fun, what do they love to run their little hands through? Is it about scooping and sifting? Are they searching for items? What playthings do you want to add? Does the activity require water beads? Make sure to read the cards ahead of time and plan the set up accordingly.

Just as there are many things to use to fill a sensory bin, such as uncooked rice or sand, there are a variety of toys and tools that kids love. We encourage researching ideas and adding other tools such as different scoops, containers, funnels, and more to create new experiences.



Determine how many kids will be using the bin. We included the removable divider in case two children wanted to play in their own space or if you wanted to try two different dry tactile fills.

We do not recommend using dry and wet fills (shaving cream, water beads, etc.) in the bin at the same time, even if you are using the divider.

FILL & SET UP:

Once the fill type and activity(ies) have been determined, add the appropriate fill and playthings to the bin. Keep in mind there will be little hands playing in the bin so be mindful not to overfill.

We've provided shredded paper and water beads, but try experimenting with other materials such as uncooked rice, dry beans (try different types and sizes), cereal (such as toasted oats), popcorn kernels, uncooked or boiled and cooled noodles, Easter grass, packing peanuts, shaving cream, soapy water/bubbles, slime, pom-poms, and so much more.

Remember: Sensory bin fills are not meant to be eaten even if food is used. Make sure the kiddos are always supervised when playing.

SETTING UP WATER BEADS:

Water beads take some time to prepare, so you'll have to plan ahead before using them. (This is the perfect time to experiment with dry fills!) About 4 teaspoons will fill the entire bin about halfway, which is perfect for two little hands and seek & find objects.



1. In a bucket or 3+ quart container, add 4 teaspoons of water beads to every 10 cups of water.
(Use distilled water for best results.)
2. Let the beads soak for 6 to 10 hours.
3. Transfer the hydrated water beads into the sensory bin.

Please note: Leaving beads in water for too long can cause the beads to break easily or mold. We recommend straining the excess water out before transferring to the bin.



Once the water beads have been transferred into the Sensory Bin, your little one can dig right in for free play, or you can add items to search for from the activity cards. When playtime is finished, we recommend storing the beads in a resealable bag or a separate container with a lid. Hydrated water beads can be reused for only a few days after initial use.

Always check the beads before play. If you notice the beads have an odd smell, or if they begin to appear cloudy or moldy, they should be thrown out.

Whenever emptying or changing the fill type, especially when going from wet fill to dry fill, remove all of the contents and clean the inside with soap and water. Let it dry completely before adding any new fill.

ACTIVITY CARD ICONS:

The activity cards for the Sensory Bin contain a wide range of activities from seek & find to sorting, to colors, counting, and more.

We've also introduced developmental progression into the Sensory Bin activities. Younger kids should start exploring and playing with just their hands. As they're ready to further develop hand-eye coordination and grip strength we recommend using the tweezers during play. An additional path of progression is the pincer grasp which is the pressing together of the index finger and thumb to hold or grab an item.



USE
HANDS



USE
TWEEZERS



USE PINCER
GRASP



“While it’s important to develop a dominant hand for things like writing or throwing a ball, it’s also important to build strength equally in both hands in order to be able to button a shirt. The tweezers are a great activity to work on building strength. Try it with each hand.”

Most activities were designed as single-child activities, but feel free to make them into team activities where applicable. We’ve also included a few activities that can be played competitively or cooperatively.



COMPETITIVE



COOPERATIVE



We want to know how you’re using the sensory bin and if you have any tips to share. Let us know and say hi at chuckleandroar.com, or on Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook @[chuckleandroar](https://chuckleandroar.com).



Questions or Comments?
ChuckleAndRoar.com