

# Water Play Tips

“If there is magic on this planet,  
it is contained in water.”  
—Loren Eisely



**TG** ●

# Why Water Play?

Water play offers limitless chances for kids to use their imagination, tinker and experiment, and even explore STEM concepts.

No matter how sensitive a child is to sensory input, water is simultaneously stimulating and calming, making it an ideal material for sensory play.



# Why Water Play?

Setting up a water play center in your home outdoor space is a super way to spark hours of imaginative, sensory-rich play.

To help you get started, we've put together these tips from FAQ about water play.



# What is a Water Play Center?

Water play center (*noun*): any place with a basin or container that can hold water and the okay to play.

Though water play centers range in complexity, you really just need a spot where kids can explore and experiment with water.



# How to Set Up a Water Play Center

If you can, set up near a water source (i.e. hose) or a spot where you can easily transport bins or buckets of water. Contain the water in a kiddie pool, plastic storage bins or even a large cooking pot. You can even make your own DIY pond by wrapping a tarp around a few pool noodles.



# Don't have a water source?

If you don't have your own outdoor space, bring the water play to a park, stoop or any outdoor space you enjoy. Pack a bag with a bowl, a few kitchen items for scooping and a water bottle or two of water. It doesn't take a lot of water to spark engaging water play.



# Can we play inside?

Of course! Offering indoor water play on a day when you can't easily get outside is a great way to ensure kids get a good dose of sensory-rich play. Add a few tools to transform a bathtub, shower or sink into a play center. Or, just lay towels down on the floor and place a storage bin or cooking pot in the middle. Voila!



# How to kick off water play:

To get kids really engaged, we can make the “launch” of our water play into a moment. Share a “Hurrah!” as you and your child turn on the faucet or pour the first bucket of water into your set up. Once the water is in, plop in a tool or two, and enjoy some splash, scoop, pour and explore action. Let the water play roll!





# What can I add in?

All you need is a basin (bowl, pot, bin, etc.) and water, but you can add objects that spark play gradually to keep up kids' momentum:

- Cups and containers of all shapes and sizes
- Smaller bowls or basins
- Measuring cups
- Spray or squeeze bottle
- Sponge, towels or other scraps of fabric
- Rocks, sticks and other nature treasures
- Things that float or sink
- Fruit slices (cucumber, citrus)
- Funnels, tubes, and cans with top and bottom removed
- Balls!
- Ice

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Water  
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# Spark even more water play.

In addition to offering new objects or "ingredients," we can also give kids other invitations and challenges to spark more play. Here are a few favorites:

[Build a Water Run](#)—Set up a network of tubes or containers to build a channel to transport water.



# Spark even more water play.

[Water Park for Turtle](#)—Turn a stone into a turtle, then kids can create unique ways for turtle to play, relax and cool off in the water center.



# Spark even more water play.

Frozen Treasure—Freeze colors or even objects in ice, then welcome kids to add the ice blocks into their play.





## Pro Tips:

- While water play can get messy, it is probably the cleanest mess your child can make!
- If your kiddo doesn't enjoy wet clothes, offer a smock or even a raincoat! Have a towel or two on hand, too.
- You can limit the amount of water available to kids without limiting the fun! An inch or two of water in a bin or bowl is all you need to spark play.
- Have a bin or container designated for holding water play toys so kids can help clean up and can easily find their tools when they are ready to play again.

# TG.

**Cheers to a season  
full of water play!**

