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## Te kirikiri | Sand

Sand provides a rich sensory experience that promotes physical, social, and cognitive development. As tamariki explore, they develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. They can use their creativity and imagination to build and invent stories, promoting their social and emotional development.

### Links to *Te Whāriki*

When tamariki are scooping, digging, and shaping sand, they are experimenting with cause-and-effect, exploring spatial concepts, making sense of their world and generating and testing working theories (**Exploration | Mana aotūroa**). Sand play provides tamariki with a rich sensory experience, allowing them to explore the properties of the material and develop their sense of touch and sight (**Wellbeing | Mana atua**). It encourages tamariki to use their creativity and imagination (**Communication | Mana reo**).



Te Tāhuhu o  
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### Playing with sand can help tamariki to:

- › learn about the properties of sand; like texture, temperature, and weight by touching, shaping, and digging it
- › strengthen hand muscles by scooping, pouring, sifting, and digging sand
- › develop social skills like communication and problem-solving by working with others
- › explore mathematical concepts such as measurement (quantity, volume) as well as ordering, sorting, and estimating
- › boost creativity, imaginative play, and language development.

### Adults can support tamariki by:

- › making sure the sand is always clean and there's enough of it
- › offering new ideas and new words
- › joining in with the play, letting tamariki take the lead
- › supporting communication and problem-solving skills
- › asking open-ended questions
- › encouraging reflection.

### Providing for sand

Sand play can happen indoors or outdoors. If possible, provide a safe outdoor area with clean sand and water access. Use shade and cover the sandpit when not in use. A sand tray can be used inside.

### Ideas for equipment

- › digging equipment such as shovels, spades, scoops, and sticks
- › a range of containers of different shapes and sizes
- › natural resources such as stones, shells, and wood
- › sieves and sifters
- › wooden planks, pipes, and tubing of different lengths and types
- › a range of medium sized vehicles
- › sheets of plastic for building rivers, dams, and lakes.