

# Little Bins for Little Hands Pirate Sensory Bin

**Book:** If You Ever Want to Bring a Pirate to Meet Santa, Don't!

*Sensory play is an activity that involves different textures, smells, bright colors, different sounds, etc. By stimulating senses, it encourages healthy brain development in a variety of ways.*

## **Sensory play helps with:**

- Motor Skills
- 5 Senses
- Problem Solving
- Imagination
- Learning through Play
- Concentration

## **Supplies:**

- Plastic Tub
- Rice
- Food Coloring + Vinegar (optional)
- Small Toys
- Spoon or Tongs

## **Directions to Dye the Rice: Basic recipe/ratio for each color of rice:**

- 2 cups rice
- 2 Tablespoons white vinegar
- Generous squirts of food dye

This ratio (1:1 rice to vinegar) is gold. Stick with that formula and adjust from there.

Why vinegar? The vinegar helps spread and set the dye when using food coloring. There will be a slight vinegar smell the first day or so of play but this disappears fast.

**Step one:** Add rice to a container. This can be a resealable bag or a container with a lid.

**Step two:** Top with vinegar (remember to use the 1:1 ratio).

**Step three:** Squeeze in the food coloring and be generous. You can also add more later.

**Step four:** Shake, shake, shake. Just turn on shake it off and really go for it. Make sure the bag is fully sealed.

**Step five:** Lay on a cookie sheet to dry. It will be dry in about 30-45 minutes. Make sure you wait for it to fully dry.

*As you shake, open and check to make sure the color looks how you want. If you need more food coloring, add it. If it needs a stir in the middle because clumps are forming, do that.*

## **Now make your sensory bin!**

Put the rice in the bin and add pom poms, little toys, scoops, tongs, spoons, etc. The possibilities are endless!

## **Discussion Questions:**

- How does it feel? How does it smell? What do you see? Does it make a sound?

## **Early Learning Standards (may meet other standards not listed):**

PHG2.1: Demonstrate how the five senses support processing information

APL4.1: Demonstrate development of social interactions during play

SC1.2: Demonstrate awareness of the physical properties of objects

**Modifications:** If you are worried about littles eating rice or small toys, you can use water, crushed up graham crackers, etc.

