

SYV Children's Museum

MAKE A 'SOIL TRAY'

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Pic by Louisa Penfold

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With lockdown restrictions being eased, the outdoors (except for playgrounds) is being flagged as one of the most 'socially-distance friendly' play spaces for children. Creativity and nature go hand-in-hand. This post shares how you can experiment with 'soil trays' as a land art activity with kids! Soil trays are a wonderfully open-ended art activity you can do with young children. The soil itself acts as a 'blank canvas' that children arrange natural materials onto. This activity can be done in any natural space including a backyard, a city park, bushland or even at the beach.

What You'll Need:

- 1x tray, large plastic plate or clean garbage bin lid
- 1 x large scoop of soil large enough to fill the tray
- 1 x water spray bottle
- 2-3 small plastic containers to collect the natural materials
- A handful of small tools for moving and decorating the soil. For example, spoons, paintbrushes, toothbrushes or sculpting utensils.

What to Do:

- 1) Go somewhere and open your eyes
- 2) Look at what is there and see the colours and shapes and forms
- 3) Select some materials that appeal to you because of their shape or colour or whatever else