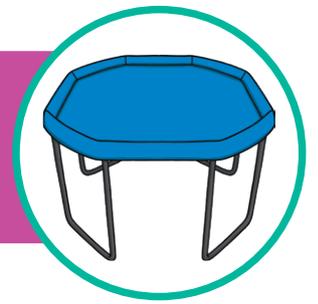


# Creative Ways to Use Large Activity Trays

## Space-Themed Ideas



Add large sheets of white, black or grey paper to the tray, along with these **Space-Themed Small World Characters**. Provide grey or black playdough, flour or moon sand for sculpting craters and mountains. Add in sparkly pom-poms and star-shaped cookie cutters and encourage children to create their own space small world area.

Add circles of white art paper and thoroughly wet them with water. Provide the children with bowls of coloured powder paint or edible food colouring, along with some small spoons or pipettes. Encourage them to sprinkle or drip the colours on to the wet paper to make their own planet surface and explore colour mixing.

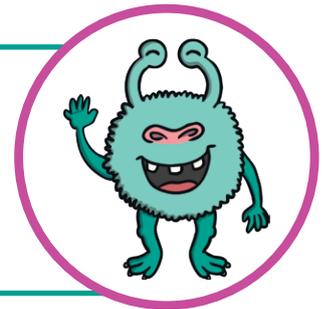


Create a rocket construction tray. Provide building bricks in black, grey and white together with squares of tinfoil for scrunching and twisting. Encourage children to count back from ten as they launch their rockets.

Fill the tray with shaving foam and add in some silver eco glitter. Add high frequency word cards around the outside of the tray and encourage children to choose a word, read it and then write it into the foam using a finger or the end of a paintbrush. You could also add in individual letters for children to practise letter formation.

Fill the tray with shiny and reflective items, such as foil trays, sheets or scrunched-up balls of tinfoil, glittery pom-poms, shiny spoons and mirrors. Include some non-reflective items, such as large pebbles or black and grey playdough. Add in torches and battery-operated tealights and let the children investigate light and reflections. You could also add in some glow-in-the-dark stars and a large, dark coloured cloth to cover the tray so that children can look inside and investigate darkness and light.

Create an alien story themed tray. Cover the base with brightly coloured paper or use coloured play sand. Add in copies of storybooks with an alien theme and some small world aliens and spaceships. Encourage the children to retell the stories. You could also add some **Astronaut and Alien Role Play Masks** or **Alien Role Play Headbands**.



Add number labels to the inside of some foil trays and place into the activity tray. Provide shiny beads, balls of foil or glass beads (such as those used in flower arranging) and some large tongs, tweezers or spoons. Children can place the correct number of 'moon rocks' into the trays and then have a go at ordering the numbers correctly too.

Provide playdough in a variety of colours together with rolling pins and circular cutters. Add in a tray of coloured beads, small balls of tinfoil and a variety of mark-making tools so that children can roll out, cut and decorate their own planets.

\*To ensure the safety of the children in your setting, it is your responsibility to assess whether adult supervision or other appropriate safety measures are required when carrying out any of these activities.