

curious minds

Ages 2
and up



Dinosaur small world fun — imaginative play

Small world play is a type of imaginative play using small toys.

Let your child's imagination run wild as they create different scenarios with their dinosaurs and some natural resources.

Learning benefit/skill development

- Encourages children to use their imagination to explore ideas related to different concepts and everyday life.
- Small world play supports different learning processes including problem solving and reflective thinking. It can support language development through the use of self-talk.
- Helps children develop their social skills as children can explore different social scenarios with the dinosaurs, by playing in a safe and contained manner.

What you'll need

- A tub or large container/cardboard box
- Natural resources such as leaves, bark, sand, twigs
- Manmade materials
- Small toys

Instructions

- Assemble your tub with natural materials, manmade materials and small toys
- Place tub on a steady surface such as the floor or table
- Get involved! Ask your child questions about the world you have created together in the tub. Create scenarios, solve problems and introduce new vocabulary. Have fun!

Special consideration

Children learn from those around them. If your child is learning to use toys in an imaginative way, think about using modelling - this is when older siblings or adults play with the toys in order to show a child how to play or what they can do with the toys. In the case of the dinosaurs, this could include stomping, jumping or eating the leaves. Support your child by bringing their attention to what you are doing by staying close to them or positioning yourself face to face.