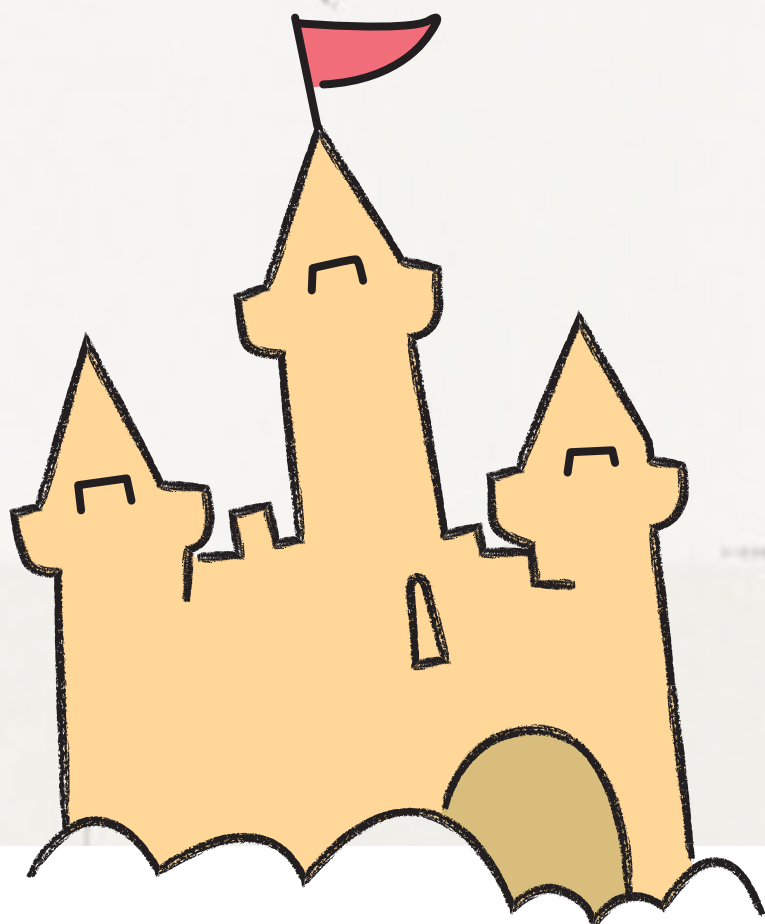


LET'S BUILD AN AWESOME SANDCASTLE!

Building a fantastic sandcastle is easier than you think, and all you really need is sand, water, and a few simple tools.



THE SUPER IMPORTANT BASICS

ABOUT THE SAND: your sand needs to be damp! When sand gets wet, the water acts like tiny bridges, sticking the grains together. This is why damp sand holds its shape.

LOTS OF WATER IS YOUR BEST FRIEND:

Dry sand just wants to spread. The more water you use, the better the sand sticks Together.

Let it drain away

Use your hands, feet, or anything handy to really press down on the wet sand.

DIG A WATER HOLE (YOUR OWN MINI WELL!).

Start digging until you hit water.

Focus on making it deep, not wide. It'll get wider naturally as you pull out wet sand.

Once water starts puddling at the bottom, this is your water supply.

MAKE YOUR "CASTLE CONCRETE":

The perfect mix is one part sand to one part water.

Pour the water into your bucket first, then shovel in the dry sand - it mixes much easier! Stir it all up until it's like thick cake batter.

BUILD YOUR FOUNDATION:

Pile the sand you dug from your water hole into a mound about 30cm from the edge of your water source.

Pack this mound down into a round, flat base (about 60-90cm wide). This will be the strong, elevated base for your castle, and it helps with drainage.

THEN:

MAKE A BIG PILE: Scoop up a huge mound of sand.

MAKE IT SOLID: Poke lots of deep holes into the pile with your shovel handle. Pour buckets of water into these holes. Then, stomp all over the pile until it feels really firm. Add more water and stomp if needed!

PACK AND SHAPE: Start from the top! Grab handfuls of moist sand, push them onto your pile, and roughly shape them with your hands.

Keep it Wet: As you work, your sand will dry out. Keep adding water to keep it moist and workable.

KEEP SHAPING: Keep pushing and smoothing until you're happy!

NEXT

GET READY: Stand close to your water hole and your packed sand foundation.

MIX: Stir the sand and water in your hole until it's flowing like batter.

SCOOP: Grab a big double handful of sand.

PLOP & FLATTEN: Quickly drop the sand onto your foundation and immediately flatten it firmly with your palms into a "pancake" about 20-30cm wide. Speed is important here!

JIGGLE: While the sand is still moving, gently put your hands on the edges of your sand pancake and keep vibrating the sand until it settles. Stop jiggling once it stops moving. Let water and gravity do the hard work of compacting.

REPEAT! Keep scooping and flattening new "pancakes." As your tower gets taller, make each new pancake slightly smaller than the one below it. For the very top layers, you barely need to press - just gently cup the sides and jiggle just enough for them to settle.

KNOW WHEN TO STOP: When your tower looks a bit wobbly, it's a sign to stop. Mix your sand again and start a new tower right next to the first. Build a few to get the hang of it.

WALLS: CONNECT YOUR TOWERS

Walls are perfect for joining towers or circling your castle.

MIX THE SAND: Get that sand flowing in your water hole.

SCOOP: Grab a big double handful of wet sand.

PLOP IT: Drop the sand into the space between two of your towers. Let it fall down, then quickly position your hands on either side (about 7-12cm apart, palms facing each other) and jiggle to help it settle and fill the space.

STACK BRICKS: Once that first "brick" is set, add another on top. Repeat until your towers are connected by beautiful walls.

Have an amazing time building your sandy masterpiece!

REMEMBER:
ADULT
SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES



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Deaf Children Australia
deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/puggles

03 9539 5300 or email
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