

The Big Spill

Materials

- plastic tablecloth
- water
- pitcher
- paper towels
- sand
- measuring cup

For each child:

- 5-oz. clear plastic cup
- bowl filled with 1 cup of sand
- plastic spoon
- small tray (if available)

Preparation

1. Cover the work table with the tablecloth.
2. Use the measuring cup to fill each of the 5-oz. cups with 4 oz. of water.
3. Place the following items on the table: bowls of sand, spoons, plastic cups, and paper towels.

Children count how many spoonfuls of sand it takes to make a cup of water overflow.

Procedure

1. Say: **Today we are going to make water spill. We call that *overflow*.**
2. **First, you need a cup of water.** Give each child a 5-oz. cup filled with 4 oz. of water.
3. **I wonder how we can make a cup of water overflow? What's your idea?** Listen to the children's responses.
4. **Today, we are going to use sand to make water spill or overflow. We will place spoonfuls of sand inside our cups until water spills.**
5. Direct children to use the plastic spoons to place spoonfuls of sand inside the plastic cups. **Let's count together.** Count with the group as they put the sand inside.
6. **Why did the water overflow?** Listen to the children's responses. **The sand we put inside the cup pushed the water up over the edge and caused it to overflow.**
7. As an extension to this activity, experiment with different amounts of water and sand to make the cup of water overflow.

