# Amaze Your Brain at Home!

**EXPERIMENTS** 

BEST FOR 18 months-4 years

### DIY DINOSAUR DIG SENSORY BIN

#### MATERIALS

- Container for dig site (plastic tub, cardboard box)
- Sensory dig materials (shredded paper, rice, sand, beans, cotton balls)
- "Dinosaur bones" (toilet paper tubes, popsicle sticks, q-tips)
- Dinosaur pictures



#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Fill your container with the sensory dig material of your choice. You just need enough to hide the bones.
- 2. Bury the "dinosaur bones" in the container with the dig material.
- 3. Allow the kids to go on a dino dig!
- 4. As kids dig and uncover the bones, encourage them to try to build a dinosaur skeleton. You can fill in the bones on a printable dinosaur template, or allow them to create a dinosaur of their own.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**Paleontology** is the study of the history of life on earth. A **paleontologist** may study rocks, minerals, climate, or even the fossils of dinosaurs! A **Fossil** is the remains of something that was once alive, such as plants and animals. Fossils can tell us about the environment; if a paleontologist finds a fossilized clam, where do you think it lived? In the ocean! Fossils can also tell us about an animal's diet. If a paleontologist finds part of a skull with sharp teeth, what do you think that animal would eat? Meat! That animal could have been a **carnivore**!



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When a paleontologist finds fossils, it is rare to find one complete dinosaur. It is more likely they will find fragments or pieces of bones, and sometimes it is multiple dinosaurs at one time. It is their job to identify what bones and dinosaurs they found. It is similar to putting the pieces of a puzzle back in place, except sometimes you have more than one puzzle's pieces!

#### WHY SENSORY BINS?

Sensory bins encourage children to use all of their senses to explore the world around them. They allow for open ended exploration, play, and learning. Don't feel limited to the materials listed above. Sensory bins made at home can be created with any materials available to you.



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