

# Fun with Toddlers: Beach or Ocean Theme

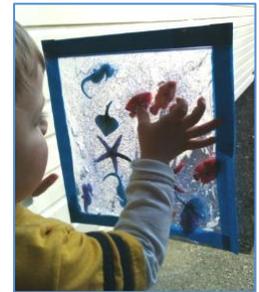
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## Art Activities

Ocean Foil Painting. Cover cardboard with aluminum foil. Squirt on some green paint and blue glitter paint. Give child a paint brush to smear paint around. Let it dry overnight, then add ocean life stickers.

Ocean Suncatcher. Peel backing off contact paper. Place it sticky side up. Your child sticks on blue tissue paper squares and black paper fish. Seal with another piece of contact paper. Tape in a window.

Coffee Filter Craft. Give your child liquid watercolors and a q-tip. They dip the q-tip in the color, then touch it to the coffee filter to decorate it. Then you add a fish cutout.



## Activities to Try

Ocean Sensory Bag. Fill a Ziplock bag with water, shower gel or hair gel. Add plastic fish, shells or glass stones, then tape the bag closed. Set it on a table (or tape it to a window). A baby or toddler can poke and prod at it, and the fishies "swim away" from their fingers.

Field Trips. Go to a beach. Go to an aquarium, or even just a pet store or a building lobby with a tropical fish tank. Spend time just watching the fish swim around. Talk about what you see.

## Songs to Sing

### Row Row Row Your Boat

My Bonnie (hold child in lap, lift child up each time you say Bonnie)

My Bonnie lies over the ocean My Bonnie lies over the sea

My Bonnie lies over the ocean Oh bring back my Bonnie to me

Bring back, bring back (rock back and forth) Oh bring back my Bonnie to me, to me

Bring back, bring back (rock back and forth) Oh bring back my Bonnie to me

All the Fish (tune: <https://kcls.org/content/all-the-fish-are-swimming/>)

All the fish are swimming in the water, Swimming in the water, Swimming in the water

All the fish are swimming in the water (swimming motions with arms)

Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble...SPLASH! (spread hands wider & wider, big clap for the SPLASH)

All the ducks are paddling in the water.... All the frogs are jumping... All the kids are splashing....

## Books to Read

- Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef by Berkes and Canyon. A counting book you can sing.
- Fish, Swish! Splash, Dash! by MacDonald. Count 1 – 10, and back down again.
- Ten Little Fish by Wood and Wood. A counting book with cute illustrations, simple text.

LOTS of book series have a volume where the characters go to the beach. Just check your library!

**More ideas (and source citations) at:** [www.pinterest.com/bcparented](http://www.pinterest.com/bcparented) and [www.GoodDaysWithKids.com](http://www.GoodDaysWithKids.com)