Sand Play, as a daily activity at RAIS Dammam, is a very soothing and entertaining medium for our young KG students. While running the sand through their fingers, they enjoy the texture and the qualities of this wonderful and natural substance.

Sand is an essential component of any developmentally appropriate play setting. The main value in sand play is that it is fun. Many wonderful benefits and a lot of learning takes place during sand play such as the following examples:

**Cognitively:**

Our students are learning about the properties of sand while they are playing with it. They are experiencing how sand feels when it is dry - how it flows through their fingers and how it takes the shape of the container that it is poured into.
As they incorporate varying sizes of containers into their play they are finding out about concepts such as "more than", "less than" and "equal". They are learning to problem solve as they figure out, for example, how to keep their mountain from falling into their road way.

Other cognitive skills that are being developed as our students play with sand are prediction ("Where are those plastic shapes hiding?"); cause and effect ("Oh, that's what happens when I pour the water on the sand!").

Language skills are being developed as well during sand play. Vocabulary such as "fine", and "measure" can be easily incorporated into conversations about sand. Our RAIS Dammam students are really talkative during sand play as they exchange ideas and create scenarios with the play materials they incorporate into their play.

**Physically:**

Our students are developing the use of their fingers, their hands and their eyes in fine motor activities such as pouring, sifting, measuring, smoothing, rubbing, and patting.

**Socially/Emotionally:**

While observing our students at a sand play area, our RAIS Teachers can see examples of solitary play, associative play and cooperative play. Therefore sand play is a perfect example of a developmentally appropriate activity. It suits the individual needs and interests of young students.