

SANDTRAY SUITE

MODULE 4: MINIATURES FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN & OLDER CHILDREN

When you're working with little kids in the sandtray, you're going to need a lot of animals. So, for me, I have these three shelves of animals. And I have animals at the lower ones because I know little kids are going to use animals more than really they really do anything else. My adults, not so much. With the different kinds of animals, I like to use lots of horses. Of course I like to use farm animals, some exotic animals. Some wild animals are good. Also, try to have different sizes to represent families. Different horse families get used, pigs. Monkeys are also really good. Kids, littles, will use these animals, almost more than they will anything else.

Now behind me here, I have two other shelves that are near the bottom that are with trucks. They have buses. They have construction workers. Any kind of vehicles, especially my little boys, will use those quite a bit. And, then of course, I have ocean in which is where I have an open-mouth. . . that's a dolphin, (Where's the shark? I do have a shark running around here somewhere) which is very, very important to have, as well, when we're talking about any of the predatory animals because you'll also see them with abuse things, as well.

One of the other things that I wanted to show you guys that I use often, and gets used often with the kids, are stones. And these could be rhinestones. These are just fake diamonds that I got in the wedding section. If you can see, these are rocks, actually. They will use these to bury. They'll use these to decorate. These are really inexpensive, and I would definitely add these to the collection, as well. So, this is what we're talking about when we're talking about 5 or 6 and under.

Now, if we go to older kids, a couple of things that you're going to see. They may use animals some, but they're going to switch toward more fantasy figures, like you see here. I've got R2D2, Medusa, a princess. They use a lot of medieval kings, queens, different things here. As you

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can see, this was a unicorn, but the horn broke off. And, so I would definitely use some of those fantasy features, figures, as well. Now some people will say you don't need to use any branded fantasy figures because it may lead the client to tell the story about the movie, or whatever. I have not seen that to be the case in all these years that I have been working in them. They may say, "Well, this is Star Wars, and this is what my dad likes", but when they are incorporating this into a moving world, they will use it to tell their own story. And if you get a kid who just retells the storyline of a movie, oftentimes that has more to do with trauma and being scared and a fear, than it does to do with the actual miniature. So, just know that that is completely ok to include those. And I would encourage you to do as many different fantasy figures as possible.

The other category that you may, and again, I didn't even put these out here, because it's not really as important, is the people category. And you don't really get a lot of people being used until older childhood and then adolescence, as well. So, again, if you just have one family, multi-generational, that's really all you need when working with kiddos. But I would lean more heavily on more of the fantasy stuff, the dragons, dinosaurs, animals, anything like that when you're working with littles, because those are the things they are going to work and use most often, as well.