



Playdatebox

SEASHELLS

THE PURPOSE OF A PLAYDATEBOX IS TO CONNECT
GENERATIONS THROUGH PLAY



HOW TO BUILD YOUR PLAYDATEBOX:

- 1 PICTURE BOOK
- 1 RECIPE
- 2 ACTIVITIES
- A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES

GATHER SUPPLIES IN
ADVANCE FOR INSTANT FUN
WITH THE GRANDKIDS.

Detailed instructions for all
activities at

[Playdatebox.com/seashells](https://playdatebox.com/seashells)

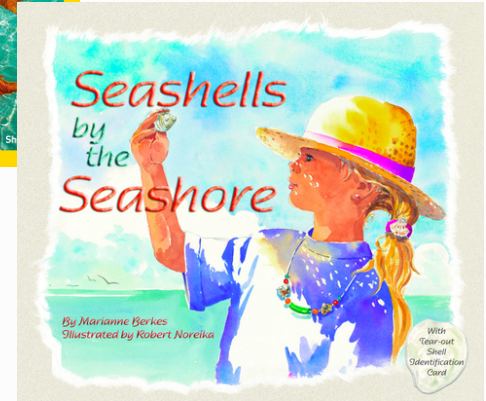
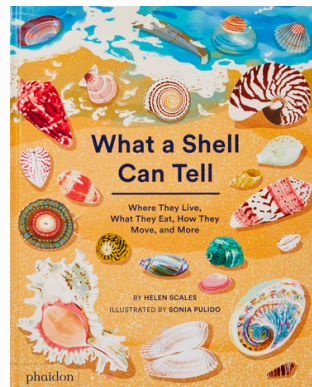
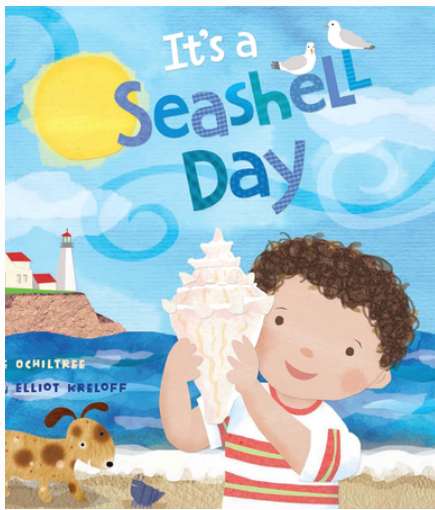
THE PURPOSE:

Develop relationships virtually
or in-person

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Use our supply list to prepare a themed kit (A Playdatebox) that you can pull out at a moment's notice and PLAY with a child you love.
2. Choose one of our **book** suggestions. You'll read this with your grandchild to start your Playdate.
3. Next, add supplies to make one **recipe**.
4. Finally, include everything needed for one **hands-on activity** that extends the learning from the book.
5. Next time you are together (even if it's on Zoom), pull out your Playdatebox and start playing!

Note: I have added links to supplies you would need in order to assemble your own Playdatebox. These affiliate links are intended to simplify your search, and provide us with a small commission. But most supplies listed here can be found in any craft store or large department store. -Lynnae



FAVORITE READ-ALOUDS

STEP 1: CHOOSE A SEASHELL-THEMED PICTURE BOOK

Choose an age-appropriate book. We recommend any of these:

It's a Seashell Day: (ages 3-7)

Grab your shovel and your pail and follow along in this colorful book as the rhyming text guides you through a day on the beach with a young boy and his mother. Together, they discover all kinds of seashells and learn about the creatures that live inside.

National Geographic Readers: At the Beach (ages 2-5)

Young readers will learn all about the beach and the animals that call it home in this fun pre-reader.

Seashells By the Seashore: (ages 3-8)

Discover twelve kinds of seashells in this beautifully illustrated, rhyming and counting book for kids!

What a Shell Can Tell: (ages 6-9)

An information-packed introduction to the wonder of shells through the art of observation. Showcases the incredible diversity of shells around the world, including the environments mollusks inhabit.

Read Remotely With a Child you Love!

Use the code **PlayDateBox** to get an extended 30-day trial of Readeo.com.



You and your book buddy will be connected via video chat, so you can both see and hear one another AND see the full book on your screen.

make

BEACH COOKIES

SEASHELL PLAYDATEBOX

Ingredients You'll Need:

- Graham Crackers
- Ready-made frosting
- Blue food coloring
- A striped peppermint candy
- Candy eyes
- Assorted sprinkles of your choice

Instructions:

1. First, make some sky-colored frosting by swirling a bit of blue food coloring into some pre-made frosting. Spread this on the top 2/3 of a graham cracker.
2. Next, add some white frosting to the lower third of the cookie.
3. Add some crushed-up graham cracker sprinkled over the white frosting. It almost looks like sand on the beach!
4. Make a little seashell snail by adding candy eyes to half of a peppermint candy
5. We added some candy stars and some blue sugar sprinkles to the sky, but this is optional.

How to Do This Remotely:

Just gather all of the cookie-making supplies in your kitchen and have your grandchild do the same. You can even ship a small "care package" with all of the necessary supplies.

These are simple enough that you can make them together as part of a FaceTime call.

Zoom will work even better. Position your computer laptop camera so that your grandchild can see your work surface and copy the steps along with you.



make

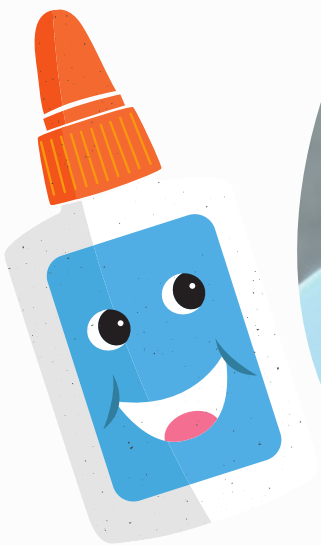
SAND SLIME

Sand Slime Ingredients:

- 5 ounces of clear school glue
- 2 Tablespoons colorful craft sand
- 1 Tablespoon contact lens solution
- 1 teaspoon Baking Soda

Instructions: ([Find the video tutorial here](#))

1. Dump the entire contents of your bottle of glue into a mixing bowl.
2. Add 1 teaspoon of baking soda and mix it in thoroughly.
3. Add the colored sand and stir it in thoroughly as well.
4. Stir in a Tablespoon of contact lens solution. Continue mixing until the mixture pulls away from the sides of the bowl, then continue kneading with your hands. If the mixture is sticking to your hands, put it back in the bowl and add a bit more contact lens solution until you have a mixture you can pick up and handle. Optional: Add some glitter to make your sand slime sparkle!
5. Play with your sand slime by pressing small seashells, sea glass, and mosaic stones in!



STEP 3: CHOOSE A HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Activity Idea #1 Touch Some Seashells



Let's Take a Closer Look...

First, gather a few real seashells (purchase these at any craft store if you don't have any on hand).

Just touch them together and wonder at their beauty. Next, think of some "curiosity questions."

- Did you know that a seashell is formed by the animal that used to live inside of it?
- Have you ever noticed seashells often display intricate patterns in their design, shape, and coloring? Why do you think these patterns happen?
- What gives a seashell its color?

How to Do This Remotely:

Gather some seashells on both sides of your call. Show them to each other! Which ones are your favorites? What ocean do you think they came from? What other questions do you have about seashells?

Activity Idea #2 Go on an outing and learn about mollusks



What is a Mollusk?

We sometimes forget that a seashell is the empty shell of what used to be a live animal—a mollusk!

If you are lucky enough to live near an ocean, you can create fun memories by exploring tide pools and beaches at low tide to find these living creatures. They include gastropods, bivalves, and cephalopods.

Land-locked grandkids will have fun at a local aquarium and you can visit one together to learn what makes mollusks so cool.

How to Do This Remotely:

A "remote" outing option is to check online for YouTube videos of living mollusks. Try [this one produced by the Sanibel Shell Club](#). We seldom see the mollusks that live inside of the shells. Sanibel Island has beaches made up almost entirely of shells! It's also home to the [Bailey-Matthews National Seashell Museum](#).

Where would you go in your neighborhood to learn more about seashells?



KEEP A SUPPLY OF SEA GLASS, MOSAIC TILE SHAPES, AND SMALL SHELLS ON HAND FOR CRAFTING WITH GRANDKIDS.

THEY ARE ALSO FUN TO POKE INTO PLAY DOUGH IF YOU DON'T LIKE SLIME!



Activity Idea #3

Make patterns in your sand slime with mini seashells and mosaic tiles.

Educator Kelli Vogstad writes: "Patterns are at the heart of math. The ability to recognize and create patterns help us make predictions based on our observations; this is an important skill in math. Understanding patterns help prepare children for learning complex number concepts and mathematical operations."

Scientists are just beginning to understand the complex mathematical patterns found in seashells.

Try using:

- [Mini seashells](#)
- [Clear and translucent glass stones](#)
- [Mosaic glass tiles](#)
- [Sea glass](#)

How to do this remotely:

Make a pattern in your sand slime and see if your grandchild can copy it. Or, just chat as you work on a design. Your hands will have something fun to do while you carry on a conversation.

Activity Idea #4

Seashell Stepping Stone Mosaics

Older kids may have fun making a larger mosaic. Cut a sheet of [clear adhesive Con-Tact paper](#). The sticky side helps shells and mosaic pieces stay put as you are designing. Layer the pieces upside down, then you can set the design in a stepping stone mold and cover it with concrete for a finished stone.

You may prefer to start with a [purchased stepping stone mosaic kit](#). You'll have lots of fun creating mosaic patterns and developing your mathematical skills. Add some seashells to your design!



CRAYON RESIST CORAL REEF ART

DRAW AN OCEAN SCENE
WITH CRAYONS THEN
WASH OVER YOUR ART
WITH BLUE WATERCOLOR
PAINT



Thanks to [@she.nannagans](#) for this fun idea! Follow her on Instagram for more!

VALUES TO HAND DOWN: STEWARDSHIP

One reason I play with my grandchildren is to pass on my own legacy. I sometimes wonder whether there will always be beautiful seashells for my children and grandchildren to enjoy. Am I doing my part to preserve the habitat that mollusks will need in order to thrive so my grandchildren can walk barefoot on the beach and find seashells with their grandchildren someday? Have I helped them understand how to do their part?

You and your older grandchildren might be interested in learning about the "[Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)" which is a floating garbage dump of discarded plastics and [marine debris](#). I live near the mountains in a desert state 700 miles from the nearest ocean. But for the first time, I've started to think about how my choices might impact the ocean ecosystem, and what small and simple changes I can make in my lifestyle to help out. Eliminating plastic water bottles would be a change I can make easily.

You and your older grandchildren could think about some of the ways you can help. What are other ways you can protect mollusks and other marine life?

SOME FUN GRANDPARENT RESOURCES TO TRY..





*Grandycamp
Newsletter*



*New Online
Course*



*Go on a Virtual
Vacation*

-  Karen Ritz, founder of the [GrandyCamp.info](https://www.grandycamp.info) website, writes a weekly grandparenting newsletter that I read EVERY week! Her Amazon gift guides are my go-to when I need fun, quirky, or age-appropriate ideas for children's gifts. Karen has a degree in Children's Literature and is a children's book illustrator who gathers fun grandparenting ideas for busy working grandparents. Visit her website and sign up for the newsletter!
-  [Grandparenting 101](#) is a new Zoom course launching in September 2022. Richard and Linda Eyre will teach the art of developing effective, difference-making relationships with our grandkids. The course involves six monthly Zoom calls with grandparenting "experts."
-  We cared for our grandkids last summer while their parents took a quick second honeymoon. Mom and Dad took a favorite "Buzz Lightyear" miniature figure along on the beach vacation "Flat Stanley" style. They sent photos every day of Buzz in a cool new place. Get the details for this fun idea at [Playdatebox.com/beach](https://playdatebox.com/beach).

Items you can add to your own Seashells Playdatebox:



Seashells to Touch

\$9.99

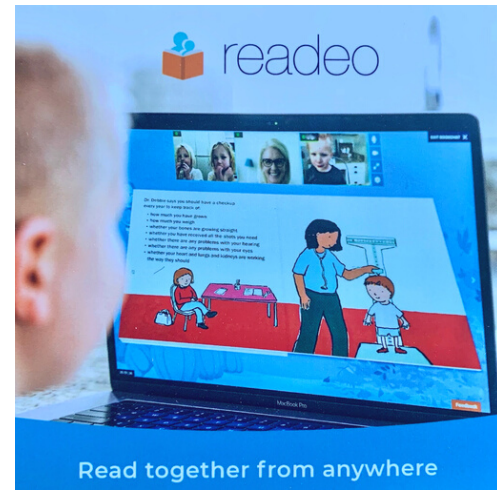
I invested in some colorful seashells my grandkids could explore since we do not live near a beach. Most craft stores will carry something similar.



Candy Eyeballs

\$3.88

Put frosting, graham crackers, and candies in your Playdatebox. I keep candy eyeballs on hand for all kinds of kitchen craft fun.



Readeo.com

Readeo allows you to read remotely with a grandchild. You can both see the book AND one another. The book takes center stage, but you'll be able to see a video of each other as you turn the pages together. Use coupon **PlayDateBox** for an extended trial period.



Floral Sand for Sand Slime

3.99 for 1.5 pounds

Floral sand is available in lots of colors. Choose a color that contrasts with your seashells and sea glass.



Washable Clear Glue

\$7.99 for 3

I actually buy glue by the gallon because we LOVE slime at my house, but the 5-oz. size is just right for sand slime!



Contact solution for Sand Slime

\$6.38

You'll need contact solution for your sand slime. This brand works well!



Mosaic Stepping Stone Kit

\$16.99

Make a mosaic stepping stone. Includes a reusable mold you can use to create your own mosaics with seashells and sea glass you find on your own beach vacation. Just purchase additional stepping stone concrete.



Glass Mosaic Tiles

\$19.99

Find colorful mosaic tiles at your favorite craft store. They come in many vibrant colors and interesting shapes.



Sea Glass

\$12.99 for 11 oz.

Sea glass might make a fun addition to your seashell mosaics. Available in many colors.



Wood Disc cutouts for seashell coasters, 4"

\$8.99 for 25 pieces

These handy wood blanks make a great base for a seashell mosaic coaster. Find instructions on our website: <https://playdatebox.com/seashell-mosaic-coasters/>



Premixed Tile Grout

\$7.99

You'll need white tile grout for your seashell coaster.



Design Your Own Water Bottle

\$12.97

Help keep microplastics out of the ocean. Decorate your own stainless steel water bottle.