Moon Sand Dinosaur Dig

MATERIALS
-small dinosaur toys
-a large cake pan or roasting tray
-small paintbrushes or toothbrushes
-8 cups all purpose flour (not gluten free)
-1 cup baby oil (or another oil if you prefer)

10 minute prep time

Excavating dinosaurs at home is super fun AND super easy! This activity is great for sensory play at home, quick to set up, and will provide your child with hours of fun.

STEP 1
Put the flour and oil into a large mixing bowl and combine them well. This could take around 10 minutes to get them fully incorporated.

STEP 2
Bury your dinosaur toys in the moon sand mixture and then go on an excavation! Use your brush to slowly uncover the bones hidden under the surface.

WHILE YOU EXCAVATE...
This is a great opportunity to work on lots of skills with your child. Brushing makes great practice on fine motor skills, but you can also talk about:

-what dinosaurs are you finding?
-what color are the dinosaurs?
-what did this dinosaur eat? How can you tell?
-try drawing your digsite, just like a real paleontologist!

IN THE FIELD

When out at excavation sites in Montana, the paleontologists at the Museum use the same tools you might be using in your dig! Toothbrushes and small paint brushes are used to brush away the soft sediment from around the fossilized dinosaur bones. A real paleontologist works slowly and carefully, so that they don’t damage the bones at their site and they can focus on each fossil by itself.

Can you find 3 the excavated bones in the picture to the left?