



FUN PALACE 2018

Sandcastles

SLQ Wiki Fabrication Lab 2026/05/31 22:06

FUN PALACE 2018 Sandcastles

Choose from a selection of shapes to make take-home sand play moulds from recycled milk bottles using a mini-vacuum former.

Activity Details

Type Walk Up

Duration - Walk Up

Deliveries - 3 in Afternoon

Duration - 20 min

Target Audience - Little people 3 - 6 yo and their big people

Learning Outcomes

In this session big people will learn about and get to have a go of vacuum forming - collaborating with their little people to design and fabricate a sandplay mold. Then the little people can test it out on the Sand play tables.

Session Plan

1. 5min - Explain/ demonstrate Vacuum Former
2. 5min - build a form out of blocks
3. 5min - Vacuum form
4. 5min - test mold

Facilitator notes

- whats a vacuum former? when was it first invented? What do they use them for industry? (see [Make your own Vacuum Former](#) for how to make a vacuum former for under \$20)
- What does the edge use them for?
- Whats so great about sand play for kids?
- How did we make these tables? (CNC)

- Fun fact - Vacuum-formed components can be used in place of complex fabricated sheet metal, fiberglass, or plastic injection molding

- **Interesting fact for child/teenager** - Vacuum formers are also often used by hobbyists, for

applications such as masks and remote control cars

- **Interesting Fact for an adult** - The most inventive way to use vacuum forming is to take any small item, replicate it many times and then vacuum for the new pattern to create a more cohesive form.

- Image - <https://goo.gl/images/v7HN9s> Picture of Darth Vader in Carbonite Vacuum Forming - Star Wars

- **A dot point that relates to the QLD collection** - State Library's Asia Pacific Design Library hold collections about design techniques including vacuum forming including this book 'Product and Furniture Design'

http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=slq_alma21198613840002061&context=L&vid=SLQ&lang=en_US&search_scope=SLQ_PCI_EBSCO&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&ab=all&query=any,contains,Vacuum%20forming&facet=local7,include,Asia%20Pacific%20Design%20Library&offset=0

Materials Req

- Blocks
- Sand play table
- bulk sand
- Broom
- water
- Pre cut Recycled Milk bottles (60)

Equipment Req

- Vacuum Former x4
- Vacuum x4
- Hot Air Gun x4

Files

sandpit_tab.zip
sandpit_tab_v2.zip

Hi Andrei. here are the sandpit files for Dennis fro tomorrow.

A few notes.

I have rotated it 90 degrees this time to suit the Multicam. the design is designed for seventeen mm Ply - NOT 15mm the tool is set to 6.35 Dennis wants to circular cuts in the top - not the large rectangles - so some - all - parts will need to be moved to outside the top piece, but there is room-a-plenty.

I would just draw the circles in V carve - its very easy.

cheers

g

Reflections Learnings

Gallery