

# Make Your Own Salt Tray

includes alphabet cards



by  
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 ALL ABOUT *Reading*  
 ALL ABOUT *Spelling*

# Make Your Own Salt Tray

Turn writing practice into a sensory experience with these easy-to-create salt trays! With multiple color and scent options available, this fun activity offers the benefit of engaging all the senses while your child practices a critical skill. Ready to get writing?



## Materials

- 1 set of letter cards (pages 5-17)
- Table salt
- Color and scent additives (see recipes on pages 3-4)
- Zip-top baggies
- Shallow container such as a baking pan, jelly roll pan, or box lid
- Colored construction paper (optional)

## Create Your Salt Tray

1. Select a recipe from page 3-4 and follow the instructions to create your favorite salt tray.
2. Pour the salt mixture into a baking pan, jelly roll pan, or other shallow container. Using a colored container makes the shape of the letter stand out better as it is drawn in the salt. If a colored container is not available, cover the bottom of the container with construction paper.

## Ideas for Using Your Salt Tray

- Write in the salt tray with the pointer finger of the dominant hand.
- Gently shake the salt tray to “erase” words.
- For young children, place an uppercase or lowercase letter card next to the salt tray as a visual reference. Have your child write the letter in the salt.
- Older kids can practice phonograms and spelling words by writing them in a salt tray.
- If your child struggles with letter reversals, writing in a salt tray provides extra reinforcement of correct letter formation.

# Salt Tray Recipes

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## Ingredients

### Lavender Salt Tray

1 ½ cups salt  
purple chalk **or** 24 drops purple food dye  
1-2 drops lavender essential oil

### Creamsicle Salt Tray

1 ½ cups salt  
orange chalk **or** 11 drops red + 24 drops yellow food dye  
¼ tsp vanilla extract + 1 package sugar-free orange gelatin

### Candy Cane Salt Tray

1 ½ cups salt  
red chalk **or** 24 drops red food dye  
½ tsp peppermint extract

### Lemonade Salt Tray

1 ½ cups salt  
yellow chalk **or** 24 drops yellow food dye  
½ tsp lemon extract **or** 1-2 drops lemon essential oil

### Pumpkin Spice Salt Tray

1 ½ cups salt  
orange chalk **or** 11 drops red + 24 drops yellow food dye  
2 tsp pumpkin pie spice

### Chocolate Salt Tray

1 cup salt  
½ cup of cocoa powder  
(no extra color/fragrance needed)

### Almond Joy Salt Tray

1 cup salt  
½ cup cocoa powder  
¼ tsp almond extract  
¼ tsp coconut extract

# Salt Tray Recipes

## Strawberry Banana Salt Tray

1 ½ cups salt  
red chalk **or** 24 drops red food dye  
½ tsp banana extract + 1 package sugar-free strawberry gelatin

## Root Beer Float Salt Tray

1 ½ cups salt  
brown chalk **or** 20 drops red + 12 drops yellow + 8 drops blue food dye  
½ tsp vanilla extract + ¼ tsp root beer extract or concentrate

## Sugar Cookie Salt Tray

1 ½ cups salt  
beige chalk **or** 1 drop red + 5 drops yellow food dye  
¼ tsp almond extract + 1 tsp vanilla extract

Use one of the following methods to color your salt.

### **Method #1: Coloring Salt with Food Dye**

*Note: Use this method to achieve bolder colors and for colors that require mixing. This method requires some drying time.*

Combine salt and required amount of food dye (we used [these](#) and [these](#)) in a zip-top bag. Close the bag and shake it until the color is evenly distributed. Spread mixture in a thin layer on a paper towel or sheet of paper. Allow to dry for 30-60 minutes.

### **Method #2: Coloring Salt with Chalk**

*Note: Use this method to achieve more subtle colors and to reduce prep time. No drying time required.*

Place one piece of sidewalk chalk (we recommend using [brightly-colored chalk](#)) into a zip-top bag with 1½ cups of salt. Close the bag and rub it between your hands. Continue to mix the contents until the desired color is achieved.

To add fragrance to your salt mixture, simply add the specified ingredients (extracts, oils, etc.) to the colored salt in a zip-top bag. Close the bag and shake until thoroughly mixed.

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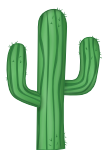
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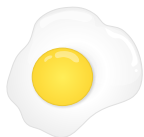
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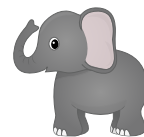
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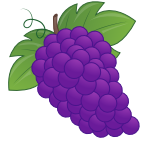
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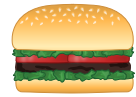
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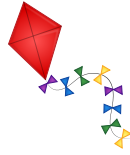


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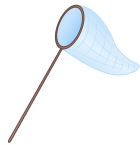
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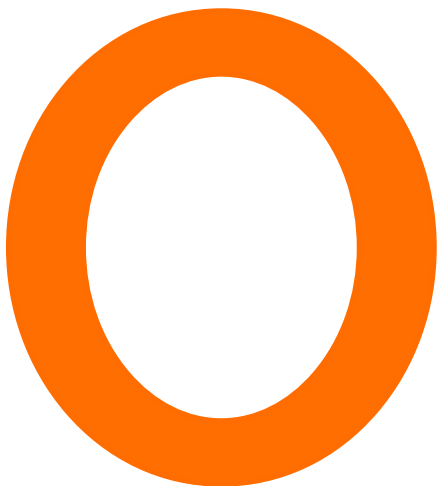
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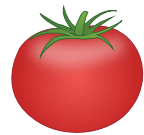
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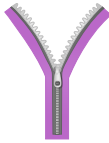




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