

Finger Painting

Children normally love finger painting. It is fun, creative and is also a great activity for child development .

Personal, Social, Emotional and Language Development

When children paint with their fingers they can create whatever they want. It's easy to succeed and children gain great satisfaction, self-esteem and confidence through participating in this activity, especially as there is no pressure to produce a recognisable end product.

As well as being enjoyable it is also a very calming, relaxing activity.

If more than one child is painting they learn to share materials, observe and learn from each other and give feedback to each other. They will be developing their language by discussing what they are doing, asking questions, talking about colours and textures.

Physical Development

Finger painting encourages the development of hand-eye co-ordination and spatial awareness. It will develop fine motor skills when the children are working on small areas and develops gross motor skills when working on large areas.

Science and Art

Through finger painting children are learning how to express themselves, their ideas and emotions visually.

They are learning about texture, colour and shape. They will learn, by discovery, how colours combine to produce a new colour, for example mixing red and yellow will produce orange. If they help you to make the paint they will be learning about how materials can change and react together.

Home Made Finger Paint

Paint can be quite expensive therefore I have provided a recipe that is really cheap and easy to make and just as effective and enjoyable:

Finger Paint

1/2 cup water

2 tbsp. corn flour

cold water to dissolve the cornflour

Food colouring

Method

- ❖ Dissolve the cornflour with a little cold water in cold water in a cup.
- ❖ Boil ½ cup of water in a small pan, then turn down the heat
- ❖ Add the cornflour mixture to boiling water, stirring constantly
- ❖ Heat the mixture until it thickens and becomes glossy
- ❖ Add food colouring and cool completely before using.