

Learning together...

Curriculum Area: Arts & Expression

Recommended for: 6 months +

Learning Activity: Messy and Clean Play

Big Idea:

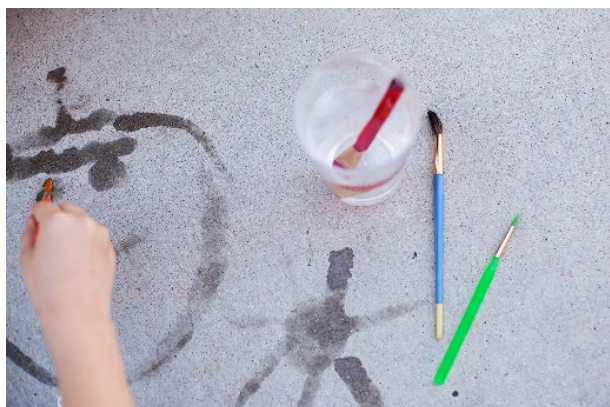
Children learn all about their world through their 5 senses. They are also excellent communicators, and they love to explore their world and share their ideas through visual arts.

Sensory development is so important for children. It helps them to create new connections in their brain, to focus and block out distractions, in turn helping them to self-regulate, and it helps them to learn about vitally important sensory attributes in their world in a safe environment such as hot, cold, sticky, dry etc.

What to do:

Messy Play:

- Put Shaving cream on a table or in a tub outside for children to run their hands through and explore.
- Make a Corn flour Gloop with 2 parts corn flour to one part water. This makes a dystopian fluid which is liquid when you run your hands through slowly but solid when you run your hands through fast.
- Draw with Chalk on the driveway – you can even make this into paint that will wash away with the rain by crushing up the chalk and mixing in a little bit of water



Clean Play:

When you do not feel like making a mess you can still explore things visually by:

- Painting with paint brushes and a jar/bucket of water on concrete – if you don't have paint brushes make your own using feathers or leaves.
- Give your toddler your phone/iPad or camera for them to take photos from their view – you'll be surprised what they take pictures of.
- Go on a scavenger hunt in your garden or neighbourhood to find "special things". Bring a bag or basket with you to put the objects into – later you can even incorporate these into a Treasure Basket full of Natural Materials.

Benefits:

- Sensory exploration
- Coordination

- Media exploration
- Appreciation
- Fine motor skill development
- Encourages risk taking

Links to Early Years Learning Framework:

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners