

Holi Festival of Colour: powder paints

Holi is a spring festival celebrated by Hindus in honour of Krishna. The festival originated in India but is widely celebrated around the world. Holi celebrates the beginning of spring as well as the victory of good over evil.

The tradition of throwing coloured powder, called galul, comes from the legend of Krishna. Krishna feared he wouldn't be accepted by his love Radha as his skin was blue so he coloured her face to make her like himself.

Learning aims

- To explore different textures and colour
- To hear about different cultures
- To experiment with different colours
- To use a variety of media to make marks.



Resources

- Cornflour
- Various brightly coloured food colouring (paste colours are best)
- Pots
- Various kitchen utensils e.g. spoons, potato masher
- Colourful chalks
- Brightly coloured paints
- Large sheets of paper
- Old plain white or light coloured sheets
- Natural materials e.g. mud, sticks
- Indian music
- Camera.

Activity Outline

1. A couple of days before you carry out the activity, prepare the coloured powder paint
2. Mix cornflour with the different coloured food colourings and leave to dry out for a day or two in a dry area
3. Get the children to help you make powder paint and encourage them to notice the differences between the damp mixture and mixture after it dries out
4. Talk to children about Holi and the tradition of paint throwing
5. Share photos, images and books that reflect the culture, traditions and celebrations of Holi
6. Explain that you are going to have your own festival of colour!
7. Plan where you are going to hold your festival of colour - it will get messy so a large outdoor space will be best
8. Create opportunities for children to engage in experimenting, being imaginative and creative with a range of natural and man-made creative medium, for example:
 - a. Hang an old sheet over a washing line or lay it on the ground outside. Let children throw the coloured powder at the sheet to make patterns
 - b. Lay large pieces of paper on the ground outside. Encourage children to use a variety of brushes, twigs etc. to make 'splash' and 'splatter' prints
 - c. Allow children to make marks with the coloured chalk on the ground or paper
 - d. Support children to mix paint with mud using sticks. Encourage them to experiment with the texture and density of the mud and paint. What happens if the mud is too thin or thick? What happens to the colour the more paint or water that's added?
 - e. On a wet day, encourage children to add food colouring to puddles. Encourage them to notice the colour changes that occur as the different colouring and water mixes
9. There are many different ways for children to experiment with colour, so why not add some more of your own! You could even get parents to join in.

Working with babies

Babies love the sensory experience of squeezing and squashing paint and mud through their hands - so children of all ages can join in!