

Messy mud painting!

Get messy with mud painting, allowing children to use their senses and explore the world around them.

Learning aims

This activity particularly supports the Characteristics of Effective Learning focusing on:

- Playing and Exploring - finding out and exploring
- Showing curiosity about objects, events and people
- Using senses to explore the world around them
- Engaging in open-ended activity.



Resources

- Mud (from garden or make by mixing 50/50 play sand and potting compost)
- Powder paint (or ready-mix)
- Washing powder (this helps the mud to stick together and easier for washing out of clothes and off hands)
- Water
- Recycled pots and pans
- Large pieces of strong cardboard – old boxes are ideal (try your local appliance shop or bike shop for really large boxes!)
- Different size DIY brushes and sticks.

Activity outline

- Mix ingredients together – there is no real quantity so enjoy experimenting
- Make different coloured mud
- Use the brushes, sticks and mud paint to mark make on the large pieces of cardboard
- You can use your hands, fingers, feet and toes too!

Working with Babies

Babies can enjoy this activity too. Tape the cardboard to the floor or a tough tray. Take the babies clothes off leaving just their nappy on. Sit them on the cardboard and give them a couple of pots of mud paint, some sticks and small chunky brushes. Encourage them to explore the mud paint and make marks.

Special considerations

Babies should be supervised when doing this activity. Ensure you have completed a risk assessment and have washing facilities available nearby e.g. bucket/bowl of soapy water.