

Learning at Home

Support



FINGER PAINT

Ages
0-4

Learning activity

What you will need:

- 3 parts water
- 1 part cornflour
- food colouring
- art smock or apron (an old shirt will work if you don't have a smock)
- large paper
- table (an easy to clean outdoor plastic table is ideal!).



What to do:

1. Boil water in a large saucepan.
2. Mix cornflour in a small amount of cold water to make a runny paste.
3. Add cornflour mixture to hot water, stirring continuously.
4. Continue cooking and stirring until it becomes clear and thick, about 1 minute.
5. Add desired colour. Separate into individual bowls for more than one colour.
6. Allow the mixture to cool.
7. Place the paper on the table, you may like to tape it down, covering the whole table.
8. Allow your child to use their hands to explore the cooled paint and create a picture.
9. If you have a plastic table, you may like to let your child play with the finger paint on the table surface. You can then make a print from your child's painting by placing the paper on top of the paint, gently pressing down and then lifting off.

Tip: Keep a bucket of warm soapy water next to the table, for handwashing and cleaning. Paint can be stored in the fridge. It will last for about a week.



What learning is happening:

Messy play is not just fun, children are also learning about different textures and smells. Painting with their hands and fingers develops children's physical skills and gets them ready for writing. As they reach and stretch they are developing their big muscles. As they draw with their hands and fingers they are developing their small muscles.



Links to more information:

- [Learning at home](#)¹ on the Department of Education website

¹ www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/learning-at-home/