



Early years

Disappearing paintings



Overview

Mark making is an important way for young children to develop their fine motor skills and prepare them for writing.

This activity allows mark making in a temporary way, that will support creative development, along with sensory play and exploration.

Equipment

- A surface that will make a darker shade when it's wet e.g. fences, bricks, paving slabs.
- A container of water.
- A range of different paint brushes, rollers etc.

Activity

1. Fill up a bowl or container with water.
2. Choose an outside surface that will make a darker shade when it is wet.
3. Allow children to get creative with different patterns, pictures and marks.
4. Experiment with using different size brushes, rollers or even body parts such as handprints and footprints.

Check for understanding

1. Why do you think the pictures disappear after a while?
2. How does the colour or texture of the surface you paint on make a difference?
3. Experiment by drawing a picture in a shaded area and one in a sunny spot. How long do they last? Why is there a difference?
4. Can you write your name or any other words you know?

Learning and play outcomes

Play types	Creative – allowing free play to design different pictures and patterns.
	Exploratory – making connections between the environmental conditions.
Motor skills	Fine motor skills will be developed by handling brushes and rollers.
Literacy and Maths	Using this activity to practise letter and number formation.
	Making symbols or creating characters to invent stories and sentences.
Self – directed learning	Leave a range of brushes and materials out – allow children to choose what tools they use and to experiment with different surfaces.
	Cause and effect – exploring the impact of making changes e.g. light/dark, wet/dry, warm/cool etc.



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