

Art and craft

Painting and playdough

Painting

Painting offers children ways to be imaginative and creative. It enables them to communicate ideas, feeling and experiences.

Painting encourages children to experiment with colour, line, space, shape, texture and pattern. It also helps children to develop muscle control in their arms, hands and fingers.

Getting started with painting

What you need

- paper of different sizes, colours and shapes
- paint (can be homemade or bought – recipes included in *Art and Craft Recipes resource sheet*)
- brushes of different sizes/shapes/textures (paintbrushes with wide, medium and thin bristles, toothbrushes, string, feathers)
- tools to use with paints (e.g. eye droppers, cotton buds, marbles, string, sponges)
- squeeze bottles or plastic containers for paint, a palette for mixing paints (ice-cream lid or ice cube tray)

Store materials where children can easily access them and put them away.

Taking responsibility for the materials is part of the learning process and helps children to develop respect for materials and independence.

Managing painting activities

- Choose your painting area so that your child can work without worrying too much about mess (paint outside on cardboard easel hung on a fence).
- Minimise mess by using a plastic 'drop sheet' (e.g. tablecloth, small tarpaulin).
- Provide an apron, smock or old shirt to protect clothes.
- Provide water and cloths for cleaning hands and materials (e.g. bucket of water, sponge and an old towel).



- Involve your child in the process of setting up and cleaning up.

Allowing children the freedom to explore, experiment and create in their own way fosters their creativity and shows interest and respect for them and what they can do. Adults can support learning by encouraging children to talk about their paintings and the painting process (e.g. *Tell me about the big circles you're making? What are you thinking about when you paint?*)



Playdough

Playdough provides opportunities for children to investigate mathematical ideas, compare, measure and count. They explore ways to create three dimensional objects and talk to others about their learning.

Make dough

Children enjoy making playdough. The weighing of flour and salt, measuring of water and mixing of ingredients help children understand mathematical concepts of weight, volume and numbers. There are recipes for making playdough in the *Art and Craft Recipes resource sheet*. The dough can be coloured with vegetable dyes (bright primary colours), tinted with food colouring (softer shades in a wider range of colours) or it can be left uncoloured. Store the dough in the fridge.

Manipulate dough

As children pat, cut, squeeze and mould, they are learning about texture, shape, size, pattern and design. They also develop the small muscles of their fingers and hands. It is these small muscles which are used to control pencils when children begin to learn to write. Where

several children or an adult are involved, language, sharing and working together are also fostered.

Extras for playdough

- Plastic knives, rolling pins, kitchen scales, biscuit cutters, scone trays or patty cake tins.
- Things for making patterns such as corrugated cardboard, leaves, twigs.
- Things for decorating such as matches, toothpicks, pebbles, stones, seeds, rice, macaroni.

Ideas for supporting learning

Introduce language and encourage conversations as children use the playdough.

- Compare – bigger, smaller, thicker, thinner, longer, flatter
- Measure – heavy, light, weigh on scales, long, short
- Count – how many balls, cakes, candles, holes
- Shapes – edge, side, flat, corner
- Language for play – *Can I buy a cake? How much will it cost? When does the pizza shop open? How do I order?*

For further information visit www.qld.gov.au/kindy

Disclaimer: the information in this resource sheet is offered as a guide only and should not be treated as an exhaustive statement on the subject.