

Painting With My Hands

You're making a new color: orange.

Invite your child to explore with finger paints as you describe the process and the marks she makes.

Your child may begin to notice the relationship between her hand movements and the marks made on the page.





Why this is important

Finger painting is a fun, sensory art experience. Through experimenting with finger paints, your child will begin to notice the relationship between her movements and the marks she creates. Allowing your child to freely explore the paints on a large, flat surface gives her the chance to develop her creative expression.

What you do

- Put a smock on your child to protect clothing.
- Use finger paint directly on a table with a wipe-clean surface, or use a cookie sheet or cover your table with a plastic shower curtain to protect your table top. Dampen the surface with a sponge and then put a spoonful of paint in front of your child.
- Stand back and enjoy watching your child freely move the paint around on the table. She may work more easily while standing to allow for larger arm movement.
- Observe and comment on what you see your child making: *You moved your arm in a big circle and now there is a circle in the red paint.*
- Give your child one color at a time as she learns how the paint works on the table.
- Later add another color to the activity. Start with a light color, such as yellow, and add a small amount of red or blue. Your child will enjoy watching the colors change.

Another idea

Save a copy of the finished artwork by pressing a sheet of newsprint on the table and then carefully peeling the paper away. This makes a print of your child's table painting on the paper. Lay it flat until the paint is dry.

Let's read together!

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