



CHALKY WALL WASH

Materials you need:

- Chunky chalk sticks
- Spray bottles
- Brooms
- Dustpan brushes
- Large paintbrushes
- Roller brushes (like you use for wall painting)
- A wall or other vertical space suitable for chalk drawing
- Wide, shallow tub with some soapy water (the underbed storage tubs are a good size for fitting all brushes into if you have one).

Setup for play:

- Draw some different patterns, numbers and shapes on the wall with the chalk before the children come so you can reach some higher points on the wall. The children can of course add their own creative touch as well if you have the time.
- Ask the children to help you clean the wall of all chalk marks. Lay out all the brushes and spray bottles for them to choose from.
- Dip the brushes into the water and then start scrubbing that wall!
- Show the children how different brushes are better suited to different areas of the wall like brooms and spray bottles to reach up high and smaller brushes like the dustpan one to do down low.

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What are they learning with this activity?

As the children work together to clean the wall they are learning to:

- Cross the midline of their body with a dominant hand to reach all the spaces
- Persist even when they find a task difficult
- Work together in a group with others
- Listen to and follow directions
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use bigger arm movements that encourage strength and flexibility throughout the joints and muscles
- Engage those core and back muscles to maintain an upright posture!
- Use directional terms (up, down, left, right)

Extending the play:

- Incorporate more activities using vertical surfaces – try providing squeegees to clean dirty windows, fingerpaint and make patterns in shaving foam on glass doors and windows.

