



FIZZY FOAMY CAR WASH

Materials you need:

- 1/2 cup Bicarb Soda (Baking Soda) – per colour you want to use.
- 1 can shaving cream
- A selection of favourite toy cars
- Squeeze bottles (tomato sauce, tomato paste, or juice bottles work well)
- Bottle of vinegar (just the generic type used for cleaning – not expensive cooking vinegar!)
- A large tub used for sensory or water play. The under-bed storage boxes are a great size for smaller groups doing this activity.
- A little edicol powder paint dye or food colouring.
- Bowls for mixing colours.

Setup for play:

- Separate the bicarb soda into a few small bowls – one bowl and 1/2 cup for each colour you want to use. Fill squeeze bottles with vinegar.
- Add a drop of food colouring or pinch of edicol colour powder to each bowl of soda and mix well to create coloured car wash 'soap'. Children can help you with this colour mixing stage!
- Squirt shaving foam into a couple of bowls or ice cream containers, colour with a little dye then place into the sensory tub along with the cars. Line up the coloured bicarb soap dishes at the other end.
- The children can now wash their cars with the puffy shaving foam soap then drive them up to the next station to be covered in the powdered bicarb mix soap.
- When they have spent some time on this step hand out the vinegar squeeze bottles as the rinse and watch the fizzing begin! If you have children sensitive to the smell of vinegar you can substitute 2 tablespoons of citric acid powder mixed with water instead.

What are they learning with this activity?

As they wash and rinse the cars the children are learning to:

- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate objects to explore motion, cause and effect
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Express themselves creatively while investigating and experimenting
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Recognise the contributions they make to shared projects and experiences
- Identify, name and mix colours
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and hands on investigation

Extending the play:

- Add loose parts and farm or zoo animals to the tub instead of cars and wash animals instead!
- Use bright colours then show the children how to roll the cars through the shaving foam then onto some black paper to make prints.

