



COLOUR SQUIRT TRAY

Materials you need:

- A large tray
- Empty and clean juice, water or dishwashing liquid plastic bottles with lid – can also use tomato paste squeeze bottles (ones with a hole in the lid) or sauce squeeze bottles.
- Cornflour
- Pebbles or gems for treasure
- Edicol colour dye or food colouring with water.

Setup for play:

- Place tray (or you can just use a table if doing outside on the grass and have a larger group) onto table and spread the cornflour over the tray.
- Fill the recycled bottles with water and a little colour. Punch a small hole in top of lids so children can squeeze water out (bigger the hole faster the water will come out so modify according to ages).
- Sprinkle a few pebbles or gems into cornflour – these will become the 'targets'.
- Encourage children to use their squirt bottles to aim at the pebbles. As they squirt the white cornflour will show different colours and the children can then begin trying to mix the colours as well.
- When they have had enough of the squirt bottles let them use their senses to experiment with the cornflour and water texture by using their hands all over the tray or table.

What are they learning with this activity?

As they use the squirt bottles and colours to create patterns in the cornflour they are learning to:

- Experiment with cause and effect
- Use hand/eye coordination skills
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Use their senses to assist and guide learning.
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Recognise and name colours.

Extending the play:

- Take the colour squirters around the yard to see what else they can paint.
- Play a game of squirt tag on a hot day outside. Tape a piece of tissue or paper towel to everyone's back, pass out the squirt bottles and explain the aim of the game is to squirt at each other's tissues while running around. As the tissues grow wetter and wetter they will fall off – the person who still has their tissue intact at the end wins the round! A little like a simplified, budget version of laser tag!

