



## OIL PASTEL MIRROR FACES

### Materials you need:

- A selection of oil pastels
- Small Perspex mirrors or real mirrors sourced from the op shop
- A table or stable surface to rest the mirrors on vertically (ensure they won't fall over).
- A damp cloth for wiping off the drawing

### Setup for play:

- Set up a few mirrors so they are easily accessible if a child is sitting in front of them.
- Look into the mirror together and talk about what they see – name parts of the face like eyes, ears, mouth, nose.
- Pass out the oil pastels and encourage the children to draw their face as they see in on the mirror.

### What are they learning with this activity?

As the children look at their faces in the mirror and draw around their facial features they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Use descriptive language to name their facial features and any emotions shown
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and play.

### Extending the play:

- Set up a hairdressing/beauty shop dramatic play area using real props like empty makeup, shampoo and cream containers, compact sponges, brushes, hand held mirrors, water spray bottles, chairs, tables, cash registers and little vases of flowers.
- Place the mirrors horizontally on a stable surface outside and add a basket of small open-ended materials including blocks so the children can create patterns and pictures on the mirror while viewing their own reflection and that of the sky and clouds above them.

