



COLOURFUL SAND COLLAGES

Materials you need:

- Stiff cardboard sheets or wood offcuts.
- Sand coloured with edicol powder dyes (or food colouring).
- PVA glue mixed with a little water in squeeze bottles.

Setup for play:

- Give each child a piece of cardboard or a wood offcut.
- Show the children how to mix edicol paint dye through the sand (lots of fun to send them to the sandpit to collect!).
- Hand out the squeeze bottles filled with glue and mixed with a little water to thin.
- Let the children be as creative as they want making patterns on the cardboard or wood with the glue.
- Show them how to sprinkle different coloured sand onto their glue patterns.
- Shake off the excess to reveal a colourful pattern.
- Encourage the children to run their fingers over their art when dry....how does it feel? What colours did they make?

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children create their sand pictures they are learning to:

- Listen to and follow directions
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Express themselves creatively
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Explore simple scientific concepts through their experimentation
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Classify, sort by category and group items together by similarities, patterns and colour
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Work independently on a project
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work

Extending the play:

- Use the coloured sand to spoon into recycled jars to make layered patterns. Encourage children to take them home to create with.
- Use plain sand without any colour added and compare the different art experiences, textures and finished crafts.

