



TREE ROLLERS

Materials you need:

- 2 x real paint rollers (the larger house paint ones)
- Smaller craft sponge rollers
- Cornflour paint colours or acrylic craft paints
- Trays for the paint (big enough to fit the rollers in easily)
- A large tree with bumpy bark to paint on (or collect some strips of bark to paint on if you don't have a tree in the play area))

Setup for play:

- Add paints to trays and place on the grass near a lovely big tree
- Show the children how to roll in the paint tray then onto the bark to see what patterns they can make. Talk about texture as they paint – what does it feel like? Is it hard to paint on bark?
- How is it different using a big or small roller?
- Keep a bucket of water and sponge close by for washing hands.

What are they learning with this activity?

As they roll and paint 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
- Use their senses to explore the natural environment

Extending the play:

- Try taping the paper or card to a wall or other vertical surface so the children need to use different muscles and coordination skills to paint.
- Use magnifying glasses to investigate the bark up close. Talk about why trees have bark and look at pictures of different trees with different textured bark.
- Add roller brushes to a painter's prop box, add a few buckets of water and old paint shirts then let the children paint the walls and house with water.
- Add some cardboard boxes from the recycle bin, a little shaving foam and then encourage the children to paint some smaller logs or bits of wood using just the foam and their hands. Can they cover it all? What does it feel like on your hands?

