



## SANDY COLOUR SQUIRTING

### Materials you need:

- A sandpit or some smaller containers filled with a thin layer of sand.
- Plastic bottles with a lid from the recycle bin – small juice or water sizes work best
- Coloured water paint – add a sprinkle of edicol dye to the water or use a strong concentration of food colouring if you don't have edicol.

### Setup for play:

- Fill the plastic bottles with your coloured water.
- Punch a hole in the middle of the lid – larger hole for younger children, smaller hole for older children.
- Show children how to squeeze the bottles to create a water stream.
- As they move the bottles around they can create patterns in the sand. If you live in a cold climate you could do the same thing with snow!
- Encourage children to use large movements with their arms and entire body to create their artwork. Move in anti-clockwise directions as well as clockwise.



### **What are they learning with this activity?**

As the children create colourful patterns in the sand they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Manipulate equipment with increasing competence
- Work independently on a project
- Listen to and follow directions
- Work together in a group with others
- Colour recognition and mixing colours
- Express themselves creatively
- Cross their midline and move in anti clockwise directions
- Understand basic position concepts

### **Extending the play:**

- Use plain water to 'draw' patterns and pictures on cement or fences outside.
- Lay out some absorbent paper towel and use the squeeze bottles to make interesting mixed colour pictures.
- Water the garden or pot plants using the water squeeze bottles.