



PAPER PLAY

Materials you need:

- Floor space for baby to move around comfortably
- Collection of different types of paper – use what you have available. Some suggestions are computer paper, toilet paper, wrapping paper, wax lunch wrap, baking paper, paper towel, foil, cellophane, tissue paper.
- Tissue or shoe boxes

Setup for play:

This activity works well with ages 6-12 months, but toddlers will love to join in too!

- Setup the different textured papers and boxes down on the floor so they are easy to access.
- Give the younger babies a piece of paper to explore – older babies will enjoy investigating and choosing their own. Describe textures and actions using simple descriptive language.
- Fill some of the boxes with crumpled paper and encourage babies to pull them out to empty and put back in to fill.
- Show them how to crumple, crinkle, tear, float, float, wrap the paper then allow the children to experiment and touch different textures on their own.
- Stay close by to supervise and ensure the paper doesn't end up in mouths and become a choking hazard.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the babies choose, touch and experiment with the different papers they are learning to:

- Experiment with cause and effect
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and balance
- Follow directions
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Use their senses to explore
- Build their vocabulary as they hear descriptive language

Extending the play:

- Add some small blocks and toys wrapped in different textured papers and show baby how to unwrap.
- Spread out large sheets of newspaper, tape to the floor and add some chunky crayons so toddlers can create their own artwork.

