



CHALK CRUSH

Materials you need:

- A collection of old or broken chalk ends (you can also use new chalk if you prefer, thick sidewalk sticks work well for this activity and if you have a large group of children).
- Tack hammers and/or wooden mallets and hammers for younger children (or you can use rolling pins as another option)
- Ziplock bags or similar
- A strong stable surface for hammering (you can use the ground, a table or something similar – factor in the age of your children and what would work best for them.)

Setup for play:

- Hand out a bag to each child and encourage them to choose the chalk pieces they want to crush
- When the pieces are chosen, help to make sure the bags are sealed securely and then place them flat on a hard surface.
- Now it's time to do some hammering. The aim is to crush the chalk pieces into a powder.
- If you would prefer not to use hammers why not try some wooden rolling pins – they can use them to bang and to roll across the bags.
- Let them hammer until they have had enough then pour the chalk powder into separate zip lock bags or containers with lids and seal.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children hammer, crush and create powder they are learning to:

- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively
- Manipulate equipment with increasing competence
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Work independently on a project
- Use their upper body dexterity as well as balance and coordination skills
- Cross their midline and move in different directions
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Use real tools for a purpose.

Extending the play:

- Use the crushed chalk powders to do some painting (see activity guide 152)
- Use other mediums to crush into powder like pieces of red brick, dirt balls, flowers.

