



OIL & WATER PAINT

Materials you need:

- A few shallow baking dishes or trays
- 1 bottle cooking oil
- Water with edicol dyes or food colouring added in the colours you choose.
- Heavy paper like the type you find in art sketchbooks.
- A drying rack or somewhere flat to lie the artworks flat as they dry.
- Eye droppers or old medicine droppers

Setup for play:

- Place a small amount of the watercolour in the bottom of dish or tray.
- To make the first print show the children how to add just a few drops of the oil into the watercolour in the tray. Explain that it won't work as well if they add too much oil!
- Use a craft stick or handle of a wooden spoon to drag through and marble the paint colours a little with the oil.
- Carefully lay a piece of paper over the paint in the tray then pick up and lay flat to dry – out on the grass in the sun is perfect then you don't need to worry about dripping!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children create their oil and water prints they 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
- Use scientific inquiry skills to learn about and become familiar with the steps in a scientific process.
- Better understand liquid density and how it works
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and observation
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve

Extending the play:

- Show children what happens if they try to drop some water colours onto the blank spaces on their paper – why won't it stick to the paper? Open a discussion about why water and oil don't mix and show them how water will always sink below the oil.