



ROPE PAINTER

Materials you need:

- Large sheets of paper or cardboard taped (or weighted down) to ground outside
- A few thick pieces of cord or rope – around 1 metre long with a loop tied at ends to form handles.
- Thick acrylic craft paint (choose the number of colours you want to use)
- Large sheet of paper or cardboard
- Tubs or buckets for the paint

Setup for play:

- Pour the paint into buckets or tubs and place around the paper.
- Show the children how to put their hand through the loop on the rope then dip into a paint colour.
- Swing the rope onto the paper and twist and turn to make wiggly patterns
- If you are using the cheaper nylon ropes, you may need to add a little PVA glue to the paint to help it stick to the rope strands.
- Change colours to make different patterns and prints on the paper or card.
- Ask the children to help you wash the ropes out in some warm soapy water when painting is finished.

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What are they learning with this activity?

As the children twist, turn, bend and swing the rope to create their painting they are learning to:

- Cross their midline and move in different directions
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Persist even when they find a task difficult
- Work together in a group with others
- Listen to and follow directions
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Express themselves creatively
- Manipulate objects to explore motion, cause and effect
- Work together in a group with others
- Coordinate, strengthen and balance their large muscles as they bend, stretch, turn and swing the rope.
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Use the eye-hand coordination and dexterity skills needed to manipulate objects

Extending the play:

- Paint on half the paper then fold over to make a large-scale string painting
- Try using thinner cords but still the same length – clip pegs to the ends to use as handles. Do they make different prints? Are they easier or harder to paint with? What muscles do you need to use?
- Fling some cooked spaghetti strands coloured with a little edicol dye or food colouring at a piece of paper taped to a vertical surface to make patterns and prints.

