

“In Your Imagination”



Module 5, Chalk Paint

Prompt:

Use a few simple ingredients to make your own paint to use outside!

Note: You will need to do this activity outside on the sidewalk. If you and your child can't play outside today, try one of the activities from "50 Ways to Play" or do one of your favorite activities from last week again.

Materials:

- Cornstarch
- Measuring cups
- Food coloring or [liquid watercolor](#)
- Spoon(s) for mixing
- Containers for paint (tupperware containers, bowls, or containers from the recycling bin)
- Paint brush(es) - the [thicker ones](#) work best

Recipe to make one color of paint:

- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 5-6 drops of food coloring or liquid watercolor (can adjust based on preference)

Make as many colors of paint as you and your child would like - the more, the better! Try making the paint outside to avoid indoor messes.

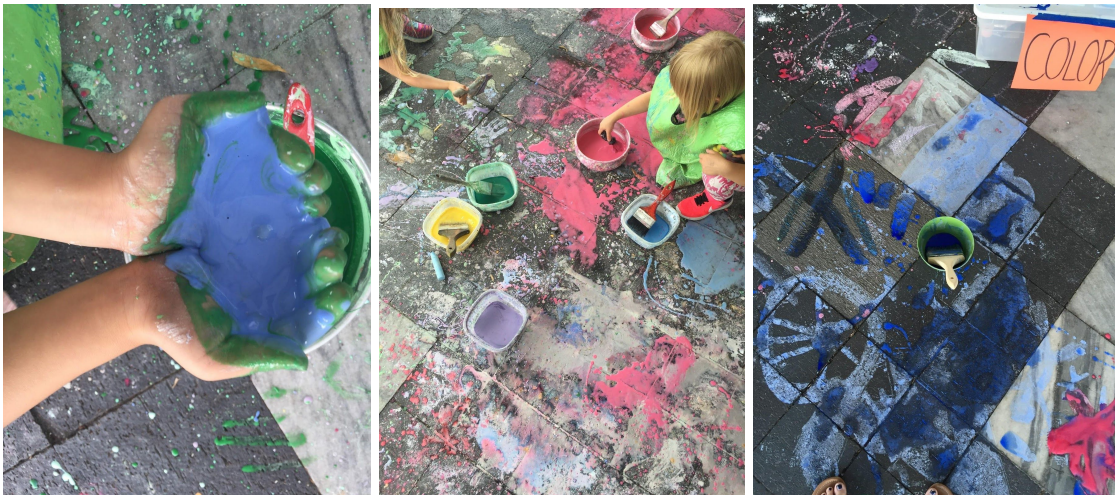
Instructions:

1. Read the prompt with your child.
2. Set up a space outside where your child can paint on the ground. Set any rules around what is okay to paint on and what is not.
3. Work together to make a few containers of paint. Put water, cornstarch, and food coloring in a container, and have your child mix with a spoon or their hands. Food

coloring may stain hands, but will come off with time and lots of soap and water. Add more water or cornstarch until the paint is the consistency you want. The paint should be thin enough to spread with a brush, but thick enough to leave marks on the ground.

4. Invite your child to begin painting! Some children will jump right in. Some may need some ideas to get them started. Encourage them to paint shapes and patterns. Show them how to flick, throw, and drop paint on the ground to make different designs.
5. Clean up. The paint on the ground will wash away next time it rains. If you would like to remove it sooner, use a garden hose or a bucket of water. Putting too much cornstarch down a sink can clog your drains, so rinse the majority of cornstarch off outside before cleaning anything in your sink.

Resources: Visitors at Boston Children’s Museum loved doing this activity to celebrate Messy Monday! Check out these pictures for inspiration:



Extensions:

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Invite your child to experiment mixing colors together.
- Challenge your child to use something other than a paint brush to paint. Some suggestions include: their hands, sticks from outside, mixing spoons, sponges.
- Give your child sidewalk chalk to use while they paint.
- Experiment together with adding more cornstarch or more water to your paint. Ask your child what changes they see.

Together with your child, go to the “In your Imagination” topic on Flipgrid and share their chalk painting experience.