



Nature Play: Water Painting

Water Painting with Children

Water painting is a great activity when it is too cool to play *in* the water, but still warm enough to play *with* water. It can encourage a number of developmental skills, including creativity, conversation and cooperation, both gross and fine motor skills, pouring skills, and pretend play. Children can practice different painting and other artistic techniques or work on letters and shapes.

Motivating Questions: How can we paint without pigment? Can we paint with just water?

What can we use as a paint brush? What else could we paint on; could we paint on the trees? Want to try? How can we make it last longer/go away faster?

NOTE for Grownups: it is fun to do these activities with your children but remember, when they (not you) lead the activity they learn problem-solving skills and gain confidence.

Materials: Paint brushes, sponges and other tools to paint with; fresh water; buckets or other containers for water.

Directions

1. Gather your materials. Find something to hold “paint” water: bucket, cup, or paint tray. Several different paint brushes: Large paint brushes (for painting walls), smaller artist brushes, foam brushes, sponges, and paint rollers. Container for extra “paint:” bucket or pitcher.
2. Find a solid surface (a sidewalk, wall, garage door, etc.) to “paint.”
3. Fill your bucket, cup, or paint tray with water. Have another bucket of water ready for when you run out of “paint” water.
4. Dip paintbrush into the water and paint the surface. It can be good to have a variety of sizes, shapes and types of brushes. The different brushes all have different results. Don’t worry about splattering or painting the entire area.
5. Try big sweeping strokes, small controlled strokes, different sizes and types of brushes. Try making a picture or writing something. What other painting techniques can you experiment with?
6. Watch the water evaporate. Consider what parts evaporate first? Which areas take longer?

Online resources for water painting with children

<https://happyhooligans.ca/painting-water-activity-for-kids/>

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/toddler-water-painting/>

<https://laughingkidslearn.com/painting-with-water/>

<https://tinkerlab.com/outdoor-water-painting-experiments/>



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Water Painting Examples from the Web

