

ACTIVITY: MUD PAINTING

Take advantage of the summer and set up an art activity outdoors.

Supplies Needed:

- Small sand pail
- Old tablespoons or other scooping utensil
- Muffin tin
- Old brush 1/2 or 1 inch wide
- Small bucket for water
- Measuring cups in 3/4 or 1/2 cup size
- Sidewalk or driveway
- Garden hose to use for final rinse off

Process:

1. Go on a dirt dig. Using the small sand pail and the tablespoons scoop up dirt from various locations in the yard till buckets are filled
2. In each muffin tin place some dirt and then some water and stir. Try different "recipes" in each cup, what happens if you add a lot of water and a little dirt or a lot of dirt and a little water?
3. Select a paintbrush and try out the mud mixtures by painting on the sidewalk or driveway.
4. More mud paint recipes can be created throughout the process.
5. Once the paintings are done you can wait for the next rain or spray off the area with the hose. You might even want to dress in a swimsuit so you can be hosed down as well.

Too messy for you?

Fill the bucket with water and give the children paint brushes and let them water paint on anything outside. Encourage them to see how fast the water disappears; is it faster or slower with more or less water? Give them different width brushes to experiment with different line sizes.

Suggested Adult Interactions:

- Look for different colored dirt and see if it changes the mud paint color. Some soils might even have some clay.
- Have children write down their recipes for their favorite mud paint mixture.
- Make a print of the mud painting by placing a piece of paper on top of the mud painting and gently pushing on the top. Pull back and a print of the painting will be made.

Skills Developed:

- Exploration of early mathematical skills of measuring
- Exploration of early science skills of cause and affect as children experiment with mud mixtures
- Large and small motor skills as they dig up dirt and paint with large arm movements
- Use of creative thinking in creation of mud design

Reading Books:

- *Mud* by Mary Lyn Ray and Lauren Stringer
- *Mud Puddle* by Robert N Munsch and Sami Suomalainen
- *Ducks in Muck* (Board Book) by Lori Haskins

Adult References:

- *Organic Crafts: 75 Earth-Friendly Art Activities* by Kimberly Monaghan

Next time you are here:

Head on up to the *Rooftop Artpark* where you can use a mop to water paint on the Glass Studio deck or experiment with mixing water with sand in the Sand Cove on the Rooftop.

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