

Outdoor Learning Experience (Birth to 2 years)

<p>Learning experience: I Can Paint with My Hands</p>	<p>Shared by: D K Gowri</p>
<p>Environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This activity can be done where there are tree trunks, protruding roots, plants, or just a grass patch. On rainy days, this experience can be managed within the patios, covered sidewalks or pavements of the premises. Toddlers can enjoy the sound of raindrops and watch the ‘magical’ experience of water ‘falling’ down from the sky, while experimenting with colours on concrete flooring. • The paints can be easily removed by flushing the coloured area with water. Infants and toddlers can be involved in the clean-up process as well, if they are given squirt bottles for washing away paints on roots and trunks, if required. • If infants are motivated, they can be encouraged to paint stray twigs (large enough to be painted by toddlers) or stones that can be brought indoors as novelty. 	<p>Estimated time: 15 to 20 minutes (less or more depending on the tolerance and quality active engagement of infant)</p>
<p>Children’s prior experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants would need to be comfortable outdoors. They would need to be able to walk or walk with assistance of their educarers. 	<p>Suitable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 – 17 months old (mobile infant) • 18 – 24 months
<p>What children will experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants will marvel at how colours in liquid form move and blend differently on the different surfaces as they paint. • Infants will have the opportunity to observe the change in the vibrancy of the hues they’ve painted when the paint dries. • Infants will have the opportunity to experience the movements of the large muscles of the arms, legs, and torso when painting the various surfaces. • Infants will enhance their balance as they maintain stability on uneven ground whilst painting. 	<p>EYDF Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Intentional Programme • The Professional Educarer • The Involved Family • The Engaged Community • The Developing Child

What you will need:

- Cornstarch
- Baking Powder
- Water
- Measuring Cups
- Mixing bowl
- Food Coloring
- Paint Brushes (suitable for mobile infants /toddlers)
- Muffin Tin or Small plastic bowls
- Sponge roller brushes
- Items from nature picked up by infants/toddlers
- Flip chart papers
- Starch/glue

Benefit - Risk Assessment:**Benefit:**

- Engage the sensory system to trigger neural connections, which is conducive for complex cognitive development.
- Various movements/activities will aid balance and coordinate with their nervous system.
- Activities such as painting and scribbling encourage the connections between the brain and their hand /arm muscles.
- Appreciation of natural materials and the diversity/individuality that those present.
- Use natural materials from the outdoor environment and transform them as items of utility to aesthetic appreciation in children from onset.
- Opportunity to observe the change in materials through their candid engagement.
- Promote freedom of choice, movement, along with self-expression.

Risk:

- Infant and toddlers may sustain falls at the uneven surfaces and slips on wet paint.
- Ant and mosquito bites may be a concern.
- Thorns and sharp objects from outdoors may pose a hazard.

Management:

- Ensure that the chosen site is free of animal droppings or toxic plants.
- Ensure the ratio of adult and infant permits easy assistance.

- Check selected area for presence of ant nests etc.
- Engage parents' approval and participation in this by getting sunscreen, insect repellent and such.

How to make it happen

Preparations:

Prepare your own sidewalk chalk paint:

1. Fill the muffin tins or container of choice halfway with corn-starch.
2. Add a range of preferred colours.
3. Water colours can be used for toddlers who are familiar with paints and are not experimenting with tastes. Otherwise food colouring can be used.
4. Add water to the coloured corn-starch and stir (1 part of water to 1.5 parts corn starch and baking powder. Prepare as preferred - The consistency can be moderated by adding water if it's too thick and adding corn-starch if it is too thin).
5. Parents of infants should also be notified in advance about messy play activities, so that spare clothes are available. Parents can also send in an old t-shirt that infant could slip-over their clothes while engaged in messy activities.

Procedure:

1. Bring infant/toddlers for a walk towards the selected areas.
2. Get infants to feel the parts of the roots, tree trunks that they would like to paint.
3. Get them to be seated comfortably and place the materials such as brushes near infant.
4. Provide each infant/toddler with a muffin tin of colours as this will minimise the frustration of managing their bodies as well as sharing the materials.

Suggestion 1: Painting the sidewalk, patio

1. Place the muffin tin of paints at various points allocated for the infants and toddlers.
2. Encourage infants to work as they desire by modelling the use of materials.
3. Observe and ensure they do not slip on their own wet paints.

Suggestion 2: Painting the tree trunks/rocks, dried leaves or twigs.

1. Direct children to the selected areas and allow them to touch and feel the textures.
2. Use the opportunity to talk about the colours and interesting textures.

3. Educarers could model painting of the various parts to motivate infants and toddlers.
4. Moderate the activity by observing and matching infants with 'tools' that best match their interest, and motor abilities.
5. The activity could be wrapped up with a little collage activity of pasting selected items painted by toddlers on white flip chart.
6. Educarers could write out each toddler's name beside their chosen item to create print awareness.
7. These items are great ways to get toddlers to point objects and develop a sense of belonging to objects that are found in their infant /toddler care centres.
8. Some of the twigs or little branches can be hung as mobiles or display pieces with other items such as photos hung on them. It also adds to the character and charm of the place.