



MESSY PLAY



At Drake and Little pirates we love messy play.
It gives children of all ages a great chance to explore, develop and learn.

It helps children be more creative

It helps children to think choose and make decisions



It builds confidence in trying new things and helps children to 'have a go'

Messy play is easy because there are no right answers!

Children's control and coordination improves

Messy play supports early mark making ,writing and drawing

It helps children to express emotions

Messy play things are relatively cheap and you may already have them in your home!

Messy play aids brain development and helps children to make connections and ask questions

Children learn about different material and the world around them



Above all messy play is FUN!

This booklet contains some ideas for messy play that we hope you can use at home



Enjoying Together



Messy play and getting messy can be scary for some people and we all know our homes and stuff are precious. Be careful to protect the play area with newspaper or plastic, or better still take the play outside where mess doesn't matter as much.

Including your child in preparing for messy play will help them to understand about treating things with care.

Helping children to put on aprons or other protective clothing helps them to practice dressing skills.

Clearing up, and washing themselves or being washed after messy play gives children an opportunity to practise looking after themselves.



Remember that children need space and time to investigate messy play. The first time they see something they may be a little timid of joining in. This is where the people around them are so important so...

get stuck in and have fun yourselves



Some Ideas



Paint Sprays

Put watery paint in spray bottles such as those you get from garden centres to water plants. (DO NOT use old cleaning product bottles or bottles that have contained chemicals as children make react to any traces of these products)

Messy Gloves

Fill rubber gloves with paint and pierce small holes in the fingers and squash, squidge and dangle to make marks.

Kitchen Printing

Use kitchen utensils and other everyday items to print with paint and make pictures. Potato mashers, combs, old tooth brushes, whisks make some excellent patterns. What else can you find? Please let us know because we love to experiment.

Clever Paint

Mix PVA glue with food colouring to make a paint that stays shiny. Add drops and swirls of cooking oil to paint or food colouring to make marbled paint (great for dipping paper).

Spongy Hands and Feet

Use elastic loops to attach sponges to hands and feet and dip in paint to print. Remember to remove socks and support your child as this is slippery! Where else could you put the sponges? Head? Elbows?

Play Dough

Play dough is always great make it more fun by adding smells. Mix in spices such as cinnamon, cumin, nutmeg, cloves. Mix in peppermint essence or vanilla essence. It is great to do some cooking with these ingredients so children can taste them as well.

Hole Punches

Use a hole punch to punch out lots of little paper circles from different colours use with glue to make collages. Mix in glitter and other small collage equipment to make this even more interesting.

Paddling Pool Painting

Paddling pools are a great place for doing messy play. For example roll balls in paint and roll around the pool making patterns and pictures.

Colour Cubes

Freeze paint or food colouring in ice cube trays. Once frozen put on to sheets of paper and paint with the cubes. Try freezing different shapes to help children experiment.

Printing on the Move

Put paint out with bikes, trikes, skateboards, pushchairs etc. Run the wheels through the paint to make patterns. Combine with hand and foot painting while you do it for a real challenge. Remember to support children with this equipment so children don't squash fingers and toes.

Play With Your Food

Cook then cool pasta and spaghetti or porridge add some suitable toys such as plastic bumper trucks and let children play. Set washable toys into jelly and dig them out. Use cheap non-sugar coated cereals and add small toys (plastic animals etc.) or spades, sieves and buckets.

Tissue Paper Modelling

With your child tear tissue paper into strips and put into a basin of water. Let it soak and give it a stir then squeeze out the water and use the paper pulp like playdough. Add a little PVA glue to help it stick and set if you want to.

Mud

Dig soil from the garden or buy compost then add water and get messy.

Just Imagine

Your imagination is the limit in messy play. Keep it safe but anything gloopy, squishy, runny will interest young children.

Explore with them talk about what you notice and ask questions of your child.

Remember it is the playing that is important don't worry too much if the pictures or models children make are clear or pretty. It is all about exploring.

If they do something they are proud of be sure to keep it, display it and please share it with us we love to see.

There is no right or wrong way. You can be as controlled and careful as you like one day and as splashy and scribbly the next.



Useful Websites

<http://www.weekendnotes.com/play-ideas-kids/>

<http://www.netmums.com/activities/fun-at-home/messy-play-made-easy>

People are always coming up with fab new ideas so it is always worth doing an internet search for 'Messy play ideas'

