

STEM *starts now*

Finger Painting Sidewalk Paints

Recommended Age: 42-47 Months

STEM concepts: Science (physical science), Technology (simple tools), Engineering (engineering), Math (shapes and spatial relationships)

Materials: Washable Finger Paints (Crayola makes a great washable finger paint), silicone popsicle, ice cube molds or dixie cups, a freezer.

What to do: Have your child squeeze the paint into the molds or cups. Mix colors or leave them separated. Put them in the freezer and let sit for about an hour or two. Pull them out and take them outside. Pop them from molds and use them to draw different shapes and patterns.

Language and Communication: Before putting the molds in the freezer talk about the properties of the paints. Mention that they are a liquid and you can mold them into a shape or cup. After removing from freezer discuss that they are now solid. First ask your child what is different. Talk about how you can change their form now that they are solid. When the paints start changing from using them or from them melting in the sun, talk about how they are turning back into a liquid where they can be manipulated and change shape.

Expand the Activity: Paint with the paints before you freeze them. Ask questions about color differences or even which is easier to paint with. These are great ways to encourage thinking about how different things work and what they're made from.

