

MESSY PLAY FUN!

WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Build on your child's natural curiosity with messy play. Messy play offers one of the best learning and developmental experiences your young child can have.

It is highly recommended that activities be done in a well-organized open space. The activities can be quite messy, but the environment should not be. This will help your child feel welcome and safe, which is the expectation.

The following are suggestions that will help you when setting up messy play for your child:

Use play dough and shred/tear paper

Walk barefoot on various textures (e.g. papers, sand, grass, leaves, etc.)

Dress your child in smocks or old clothes. Parent(s) too!

Make the play area easy to set up and clean up

Play with hands using materials like sand and water mixed together, or use smear foam (shaving cream works great)

Use water-based colored hand painting

Use a tarp or a large shower curtain to define the appropriate space for the messy fun

Communicate your expectations and instructions simply and clearly to your child

Make patterns with loose parts (e.g. pieces of cardboard)

Be involved with your child in the messy fun

Blow soap bubbles of various sizes

Use your old pots and pans with large spoons for mixing, making music/noise, etc.

Make available dry materials (e.g. paper, balls, large pom poms, etc.)

Use your own imagination with items in your home environment

