

Chalk Play

Every child loves to play with chalk.

There are multiple activities for children using chalk.

Here are some ways you can use chalk to support every area of your child's development.

So, get your child, grab some chalk, and play!

Recipe to make your own chalk (or, buy sidewalk chalk from the store!):

Gather your materials:

Tempera Paint (use primary and mix secondary colors), Plaster of Paris, Water, Wrapping Paper Tubes, Wax Paper, Masking Tape, Sandwich baggies (for piping bags), Scissors

Instructions:

Cut the tube into 5 inch segments. Line the interiors with wax paper, tape the base to seal one end, and set aside.

The following is the recipe proportions for one color:

Mix 2-3 tablespoons of tempera paint with 1/2 cup of water. Stir in 3/4 cup of plaster of Paris. Spoon the mixture into a sandwich baggy and snip the end. Squeeze the contents into the tube. Prop straight up (I used the masking tape ring to support my 6 tubes). Repeat for additional colors. Allow to dry at room temperature for at least 12 hours. Enjoy!



Area of Development	What to Do??	How does this support Kindergarten Readiness??
<p>Visual Motor – the coordination involved in moving your hands and eyes together to do something.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use chalk to draw a target and then toss a bean bag or roll a ball onto the target • Make a shuffle board court with the chalk and slide disks • Make a letter/shape/number grid and toss or role items onto the grid • Trace objects already made 	<p>Visual motor activities prepare children for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and writing skills. • Listening to and following directions. • Comprehending and understanding of concepts and tasks. • Cause and effect concepts. • Interaction and cooperation with others.
<p>Fine Motor – the coordination of the muscles in the hands and fingers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw self-portraits • Write name • Write letters and numbers • Draw shapes • Make pictures • Color in objects • Use wet chalk and dry chalk for resistance • Play Tic-Tac-Toe on a grid 	<p>Fine motor activities support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning writing skills. • Manipulation skills that aid in playing with items such as blocks. • Shape and color awareness. • Basic recognition of geometric shapes.
<p>Gross Motor – the coordination of large muscles or muscle groups of the body.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw lines and measure distance/toss items and measure distance/measure each other • Measure distance with a long jump • Draw line and balance as you walk the line • Balance on line and jump, hop • Play twister by making circles and then drawing shape and color cards 	<p>Gross motor activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the child build good posture control for sitting and writing. • Movement and coordination activities also help to “turn on” the brain, which in turn promotes overall learning.

<p>Concepts – academic based skills such as body parts, numbers, colors, letters, size differences, direction words, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toss in/out, top/bottom, side, above/below the square • Use alphabet/shape and number grid to name the numbers, letters, sounds and shapes • Toss to the above and write the corresponding letter, shape or number (works for fine motor as well) • Make dice with numbers and quantities and match • Match upper and lower case letters • Attribute match shapes • Shadow play 	<p>Concept activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an understanding of words and concepts that will be important for language and math activities in school. • Learn to follow multiple step instructions. • Builds independence in school work.
<p>Crossing Midline – crossing over the imaginary line that runs down the center of the body with your eyes, hands or feet in order to do something on the other side of that line.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make figure eights • Follow your shadow with the chalk • Mirror what you see • Dual arm writing • Make a grid of activities that cross over the body and toss bean bag then complete the activity 	<p>Crossing the midline activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps children build writing skills. • Helps build skills for learning to read.
<p>Communication – how your child understands words; uses gestures or language to express self; and how he/she put sounds together to make words.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give each other the directions • Have children tell each other how to make the grids and how to play the games • Identify names, speak them, practice writing them • Say the letters, sounds and shapes 	<p>Communication activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build speech and articulation skills. • Understand that their words can be powerful in communicating to and directing others. • Helps the child gain self-help concepts.
<p>Social-Emotional – how your child bonds and attaches to you; develops sense of self, independence and compassion for others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace bodies and compare to others finding similarities and differences – discuss unique features • Make an emotion grid and identify the feelings of friends and the feelings created by different activities • Color and draw to calm emotions • Make emotion pictures – what does chalk drawing look like when you are mad? Etc. 	<p>Social emotional activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support healthy relationships and independence in the child. • Develop trust and autonomy. • Help children identify triggers and specific emotional cues



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