

TODDLER EXPLORERS

16 TO 24 MONTHS

SAND PAINTINGS

MATERIALS:

- CONSTRUCTION PAPER
- FINGER PAINT OR WASHABLE TEMPERA PAINT
- SMALL BOWL FILLED WITH SAND
- LARGE SPOON (LOOK FOR SOMETHING WITH A CHUNKIER HANDLE LIKE A TODDLER UTENSIL)

OBJECTIVES:

- EXPLORING SIGHT AND TOUCH SENSES
- LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DESCRIBING SOMETHING
- PRACTICE SCOOP & POUR SKILL
- CREATIVITY AND FUN!

INSTRUCTIONS:

OFTEN TIMES, JAZZING UP A VERY SIMPLE CHILDHOOD ACTIVITY CAN OFFER SO MUCH ENRICHMENT AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A CHILD. THIS IS THE CASE WITH THIS ENRICHED FINGER-PAINTING EXPERIENCE FOR TODDLERS.

- Set up a workspace with paper ready to paint on, finger paint, and be sure the spoon and small bowl with sand are within your child's reach.
- Provide your child with the spoon, and encourage them to use the spoon to scoop and pour a small bit of sand onto the paper.
- Give your child some finger paint, and encourage them to paint on the paper, mixing the sand in the paint, squishing and pushing it around as they go.
- Talk to your child about what they are seeing and feeling! Ask questions like "Does the sand feel smooth, or rough?" "What color is the paint?" "What other things are [the same color]?" "What are you painting?"

**Sensory experiences are essential for toddlers to learn about the world around them. Activities that stimulate their senses and allow them (controlled) opportunities to get messy and creative can even be calming for them, and some educators use sensory play as a calming technique for children.

We'd love to see photos of your at home learning! Tag us on Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #MeritSchoolAtHome

