

BABY STEPS & TODDLER EXPLORERS

BIRTH TO 24
MONTHS

APPLE STAMPING

MATERIALS:

- VARIETY OF APPLES (SMALL, LARGE, RED, YELLOW, GREEN)
- CONSTRUCTION PAPER
- PAPER PLATE
- WASHABLE, NON-TOXIC PAINT

OBJECTIVES:

- EXPLORATION OF SEASONS AND NATURE
- COLOR EXPLORATION AND RECOGNITION
- SENSORY EXPLORATION: TOUCH, SIGHT
- FINE MOTOR SKILLS
- COLOR RECOGNITION

INSTRUCTIONS:

THIS ACTIVITY IS PERFECT OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS ALIKE. IF YOU HAVE A VERY YOUNG INFANT, YOU CAN DO THIS ACTIVITY IN FRONT OF THEM, TALKING TO THEM AND SHOWING THEM THE STEPS, DESCRIBING WHAT YOU ARE DOING ALONG THE WAY. YOU CAN ALSO ALLOW THEM TO TOUCH AND FEEL THE APPLES' TEXTURE.

- CUT APPLES IN HALF FROM STEM TO BASE SO YOU CAN SEE THE CORE AND SEEDS ALONG THE CENTER. LAY OUT CONSTRUCTION PAPER, AND POUR SMALL AMOUNTS OF PAINT IN YOUR CHOSEN COLORS ON A PAPER PLATE.
- SHOW YOUR CHILD THE APPLE AND SAY "HERE IS THE INSIDE OF AN APPLE." ASK QUESTIONS LIKE "WHAT DO YOU SEE?" "WHAT COLORS DO YOU SEE?" "BIG APPLE TREES CAN GROW FROM THESE TINY SEEDS!" LET YOUR CHILD LEAD THE CONVERSATION!
- ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO DIP THE APPLE, INSIDE DOWN, INTO THE PAINT. YOU MAY HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THIS FOR THEM FIRST.
- "STAMP" THE PAINT COVERED APPLE ONTO THE CONSTRUCTION PAPER. YOU SHOULD END UP WITH SOMETHING LIKE AN APPLE SHAPE ON YOUR PAPER! THE THINNER THE COATING OF PAINT IS, THE MORE DEFINITION OF THE CORE AND STEM YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SEE WITH EACH STAMP.
- USE DIFFERENT SIZED APPLES AND DIFFERENT COLOR PAINTS FOR SOME VARIETY. ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO EXPERIMENT A LITTLE WITH THE AMOUNT OF PAINT, THE COLOR, STAMPING OR SLIDING THE APPLE ON THE PAPER!
- ALLOW THE PAINTING TO DRY AND EXPLORE IT AGAIN. HAVE YOUR CHILD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU, OR FOR A VERY YOUNG OR NON-VERBAL CHILD, TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE, IE: "THIS IS A BIG RED APPLE PRINT!" "THIS SHAPE WAS MADE WITH THE YELLOW APPLE, AND IT IS SMALLER THAN THE ORANGE." ETC.

YOU MAY NOT END UP WITH PERFECT APPLE-SHAPED STAMPS AND THAT'S OKAY! EVEN YOUNG INFANTS WILL LEARN SO MUCH JUST BY LOOKING AT THE APPLE, TOUCHING THE APPLE, AND MANIPULATING IT WITH THE PAINT (OR WATCHING YOU DO IT!) THEIR BRAINS ARE CONSTANTLY GATHERING INFORMATION, AND THIS IS A FUN, SEASONAL WAY TO PRESENT THEM WITH GREAT INFORMATION!

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

