

BABY STEPS & TODDLER EXPLORERS

BIRTH TO 24
MONTHS

FALL FOAM SENSORY PRINTS

MATERIALS:

- WHITE SHAVING CREAM/FOAM
- FALL-COLORED FOOD DYE (ORANGE, RED, YELLOW, BROWN)
- GROUND CINNAMON, NUTMEG, OR YOUR OTHER FAVORITE SEASONAL SPICE
- WHITE PAPER
- PAPER TOWELS

OBJECTIVES:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

THIS ACTIVITY IS PERFECT OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS ALIKE. IF YOU HAVE A VERY YOUNG INFANT WHO CANNOT SIT UP ON THEIR OWN. YOU CAN DO THIS ACTIVITY FLAT ON THE FLOOR WHILE HOLDING BABY IN YOUR LAP, AND EVEN WHILE IN SUPERVISED TUMMY TIME FOR INFANTS WHO CAN "PUSH UP" AND REACH FOR OBJECTS WHILE ON THEIR BELLIES.

- PUT SHAVING CREAM ON A SMOOTH TABLE, TRAY, OR EVEN A COOKIE SHEET (FOR AN EASIER CLEAN UP) AND SPREAD IN A LAYER, APPROXIMATELY ½ TO 1 INCH THICK
- DRIP A FEW DROPS OF FOOD DYE IN VARIOUS SPOTS ACROSS THE SHAVING CREAM
- SPRINKLE THE SPICE ON TOP OF THE SHAVING CREAM AND FOOD DYE
- ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO PUT THEIR HANDS IN THE SHAVING CREAM BY DEMONSTRATING IF NEEDED
- THEY CAN MIX AND SQUISH AND SWIRL THE SHAVING CREAM MIXTURE. THE TEXTURE IS BOTH FUN AND CALMING FOR MANY SMALL CHILDREN.
- TALK ABOUT HOW THE MIXTURE SMELLS, "CAN YOU SMELL THE CINNAMOM?" (AND SHOW THEM HOW TO SMELL IT WITHOUT GETTING ANY ON THEIR NOSE! IF THEY DO, IT'S OKAY HOWEVER, JUST WIPE IT OFF!)
- TALK ABOUT THE COLORS THERE ARE, "WHAT COLORS DO YOU SEE? I SEE ORANGE! (POINT TO THE COLOR)"
- WHEN YOUR CHILD HAS HAD ENOUGH MIXING AND SQUISHING OF THIS BATCH, TAKE THE WHITE PAPER AND GENTLY PRESS IT DOWN FLAT ON TOP OF THE "MESS"
- PEEL THE PAPER AWAY AND SOME OF THE SHAVING CREAM AND THE COLOR SHOULD STICK TO THE PAPER. LET IT SIT FOR A MINUTE OR TWO, THEN USE A PAPER TOWEL TO WIPE OFF THE EXCESS SHAVING CREAM.
- ALLOW THE PAPER TO DRY, AND YOU SHOULD HAVE A COLORFUL STAMPING OF THE SHAVING CREAM "ART" YOUR CHILD MADE. IT MIGHT EVEN SMELL GOOD, TOO!

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

