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Autumn Leaves in Mud

You will need:

6 cups of mud from the garden
1 cup of water
1 cup of corn flour
1 cup of vegetable oil
tuff spot or similar tray
large spoons, or sand shovels
plastic cups
a variety of dry autumn leaves
large bowl or bucket.



Method:

- First gather the children around, let them help you collect the mud using the cups, put it all in to the bowl.
- Then add the oil and half the water and corn flour, mix until it forms a dough like consistency, add more corn flour or water depending on the wetness or dryness of the dough.
- Add it to the tuff spot, with the leaves, so children can print the leaves in the dough or mould with the dough.
- Children might like to stick leaves into the dough like a tree stump with leaves.



Bicarbonate of Soda and Vinegar Bubbles

You will need:

vinegar
baking soda
food colouring
turkey basters
small bowls
golf balls
chunky paint brushes



Method:

- Put the baking soda in a tray or tuff spot.
- Add colour to some vinegar in small pots or bowls.
- Spread out the baking soda first providing the children with brushes, dimply golf balls and other textured items to make patterns with.
- Provide pipettes / turkey basters for each colour vinegar you have made.
- Encourage the children to suck up and squirt the vinegar in each of the droppers, great for fine motor skills.
- You can also try to reverse the science experiment by adding baking soda to the vinegar.
- The children will enjoy seeing the colours mix together.



Charlie's Chocolate Factory Dough

You will need:

2 cups plain flour
1 cup salt
1/2 cup cocoa powder
2 tbsp vegetable oil
2 tbsp cream of tartar
2 cups boiling water
tuff spot
sweet wrappers
empty chocolate boxes
playdough tools
craft gems



Method:

- Combine all of the dry ingredients in a bowl
- Stir in the vegetable oil and mix together
- Stir in the boiling water (adult only) and mix together.
- When it has cooled a little, knead it on a clean surface until it becomes smooth and stretchy. No residue should come off on your fingers. If it is still sticky, add a little more flour, if too dry and crumbly add more water.
- Put the cutters, sweet wrappers, boxes ect. into the tuff spot.
- Provide playdough tools to shape the dough with.



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Halloween Coloured Ice

You will need:

ready mixed paint in several Halloween colours
silicone ice cube trays
water
tuff spot
large sheets of sugar paper
sticky tape
paint pots



Method:

- The day before you need this activity, mix half the paint to the water in pots and pour into the silicone ice cube trays. Freeze overnight.
- Prepare the tuff spot by laying out the sugar paper inside it and tack it down with sticky tape.
- When you're ready to start this activity, pop out the ice cubes into the tray.
- Encourage the children to move the ice cubes around, using them to paint and mark make on the sugar paper.
- The paper can be hung up to dry and replaced as needed as it gets quite damp.



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Halloween Worm Pies

You will need:

pans
black and red food colouring
spaghetti
small bowls
tuff spot
olive oil
colander
glitter
spoons / forks
black or brown playdough



Method:

- Cook the spaghetti as per instructions, with a splash of olive oil and 4 tea spoons of food colouring in the cooking water.
- Drain and return to the pan with a splash of olive oil, stir and cool until safe to handle.
- Pour the spaghetti into the tuff spot, provide spoons, forks and small bowls with the spaghetti.
- Provide circles of playdough for the children to make pie lids with for their worm pies.



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Ice Bug Blocks

You will need:

ice cube trays
food colouring
small plastic minibeasts
food colouring
small lidded pots
tuff spot



Method:

- The day before you want to put this out, spend time with the children placing the plastic minibeasts inside the ice cube trays, and filling with different coloured water. Put in the freezer and leave overnight.
- Add coloured beads of gravel to some ice cube trays too.
- Pop out the ice cubes into a tuff spot or similar, just as the children are ready to explore.
- Provide small pots with lids for them to capture the ice cubes and minibeasts.



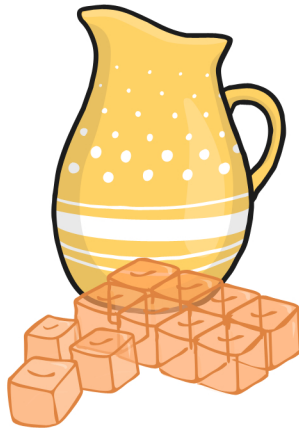
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Jelly Minibeast Catch

You will need:

ready mixed jelly- green or orange
small plastic minibeasts
few pairs of child's tweezers
hot water
2 jugs
small bowls
shallow trays to pour jelly into
access to a fridge



Method:

- Make up the jelly as per the packet instructions and pour into shallow trays.
- Drop the minibeasts into the jelly before you put it in the fridge.
- Set up the tweezers and tuff spot, when you're ready to start the activity, tip out the jelly and roughly break it up so that the minibeasts are mixed in.
- Encourage the children to pick out and collect the minibeasts in small bowls or pots.



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Joining Hands in Paint

You will need:

tuff spot or small trays
several colours of ready mixed paint
white paper
aprons

Method:

- Set out the tuff spot on the table or floor.
- Squeeze in with the children several blobs of coloured paint around the edges of the tuff spot.
- Provide aprons for the children, encourage them to experiment with finger painting, hand printing and hand printing with friends in more than one colour by mixing the colours together.
- Support the children to make hand prints using the white paper.
- You could do a group activity where the children make hand prints in paint around the outside of the tray that all join together.



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Mashed Potato Colour Mixing

You will need:

food colouring in 2 or more colours
white potatoes
access to a hob
two large pans
forks
tuff spot or similar
potato mashers



Method:

- First peel and cook the potatoes on the hob and drop 3-4 caps of food colouring into the cooking water. You can do 2 colours or more depending on how many pans you have.
- When cooked, drain and allow to cool for a short while before putting the potatoes into the tuff spot.
- Talk to the children about the colours that the potatoes have turned. Provide the forks and potato mashers so that the children can begin to mash the potatoes.
- Explain that the potatoes have grown in the ground and are dug out of the ground at harvest / autumn time.
- Support the children to mix and make patterns using the potatoes, looking at the colours they can make.

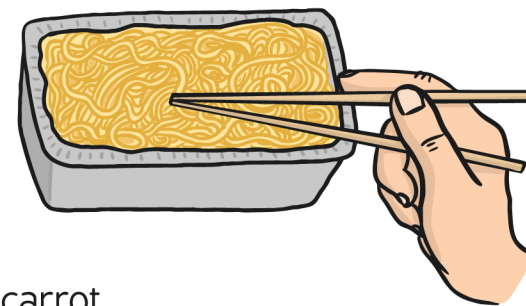


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Noodles and Chopsticks

You will need:

small drizzle of oil
egg noodles
rice noodles
forks
hot water
tuff spot or similar
chopsticks
optional cooked pieces of carrot
pepper
sultanas



Method:

- Cook the noodles in the hot water or microwave according to packet instructions.
- Keep some of both type of noodles back from cooking.
- Drizzle the oil into the hot noodles and spread them out on the tray. Sprinkle in the carrots if using.
- Sit with the children and show them how to use chopsticks.
- Explain how they were dry showing the children the dry noodles, but now they've been cooked so they're soft.
- Let the children have a play with the noodles, picking them up with chopsticks and forks.



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Rain Clouds

You will need:

cotton wool- pleats and balls
blue food colouring
water
small jugs and pots
aprons
tuff spot



Method:

- First make up a jug of water with blue food colouring and add to the tuff spot.
- Add in the pots and tubs.
- Provide a pile of the cotton wool to one side, demonstrate to the children how the cotton wool is like clouds, and the water is like the river. Show the children how to soak the cotton wool in the water and squeeze it out like rain clouds, loads of fun!
- For the children who are able to, you can use this concept to explain the water cycle in a bit more depth.



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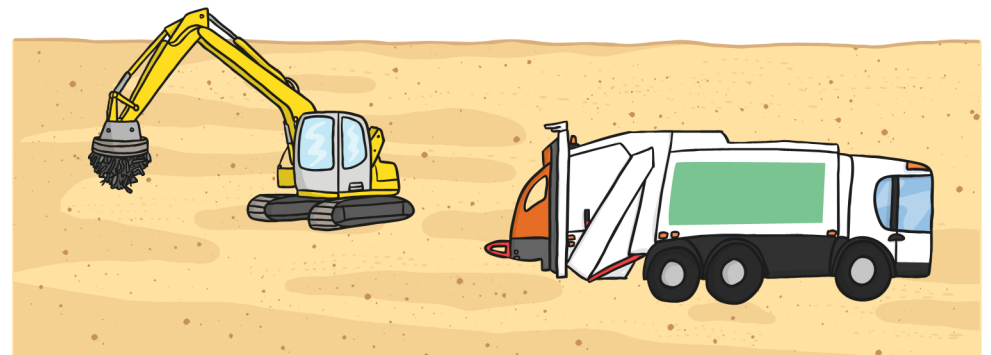
Sandy Paint Building Site

You will need:

tuff spot
sand
paint and paint pots
spoons for mixing
several different wheel textured vehicles

Method:

- Mix each paint colour with a large spoon of sand in a pot.
- Pour out paint into the tuff spot, in coloured blobs.
- Provide diggers, dumper trucks and lorries to make patterns with in the sandy paint.
- Focus on the patterns and textures created.
- To make the tuff spot more sandy, use less paint and add more sand.



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Snowmen Dough

You will need:

1-2 boxes of cornflour
unscented body lotion
small twigs
small carrot sticks
sultanas
small pots
tuff spot
large bowl
peppermint extract or glitter (optional)



Method:

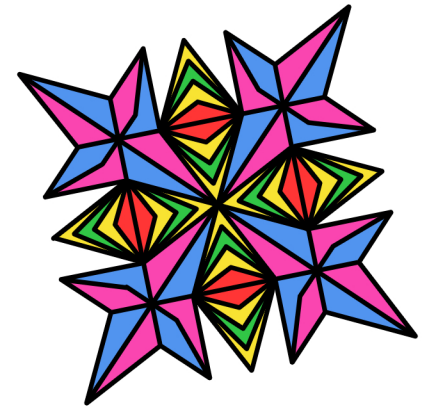
- Add the cornflour to the bowl.
- Pour in the body lotion whilst kneading the until the dough holds its form when rolled into a ball.
- Add in some glitter or a drop of peppermint extract if using.
- Turn out into the tuff spot.
- Provide small twigs, carrot sticks and sultanas in pots for decorating the snowmen.



Diwali Rangoli Materials

You will need:

flour
powder paint
flaked rice
normal rice
food colouring
tuff spot
tea trays or similar



Method:

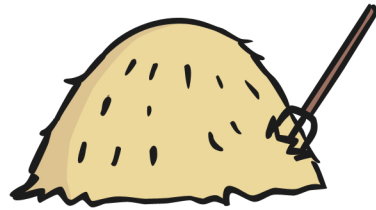
- The day before the activity, split the rice into several pots and colour with a few drops of food colouring. Spread out to dry in a warm place on a tray.
- Provide each type of material in a pile aroundt the edge of the tuff spot. Provide dry paint brushes or rubber tipped mark making tools.
- Encourage the children to mix and manipulate the materials with the dry brushes and mark making tools.
- Encourage the children to use their fingers and hands, but try not to add any moisture to the tray so that the materials move easy.



Hay with Farm Animals

You will need:

hay and straw
sawdust
small world farm animals
strig or wool
tuff spot
small cardboard boxes to use as stables etc.



Method:

- First put out a small pile of the hay, straw and sawdust separately.
- Provide the farm animals in the middle and the boxes to one side of the tuff spot.
- Talk to the children about what each animal might need, what they eat, if they are outside or in a shelter.
- Talk about how the hay is food for the animals, show the children how to make bundles of hay using the string for the animals.
- Talk about how straw and sawdust keep them warm from the cold ground in autumn and winter.



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Messy Puddles

You will need:

silver foil
water
blue paint
pencils



Method:

- Turn up the edges of silver foil to form a tray like structure.
- Give each child a rectangle of foil or cover a table and tack down.
- Provide quite blunt pencils for the children to draw wet weather things or rain splashes onto the silver foil.
- Provide just slightly watered down blue paint with brushes so that the children can paint over their designs, leaving watery looking puddles on the silver foil.
- Leave to dry on a flat surface.



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