

Focus plan for Creative

(Goals for exploring media and materials) Activity - Hand prints Date -

Learning intention

To explore the texture and behaviour of clay.

Resources

Clay - sufficient for a big fistful for each child, water pots, hand washing facilities

How the activity will be carried out

In groups of four, show the clay to the children. Invite them to explore the feel of the material, rolling, squashing etc. Model how they can prevent it drying out by adding water from the pots. Encourage discussion of the experience. When they are ready, encourage them to carefully roll into a ball, then by using their whole hand press down flat to make an imprint of their hand. Look at this print, discussing what they can see - how many fingers, what else? When this reaches a natural conclusion, remove to dry (label). Later compare all the different handprints. Display, with children's comments.

Questions to ask/Language to use

What is this? How does it feel? What can you see?

Clay, mud, warm, cold, water, dry, smooth, soft, hard, squeeze, pull, push, poke, roll, press, smell, count, look, dry, fingerprints, lines, creases

Differentiation (Birth to Three)

Most younger children will be content to simply explore the behaviour of the clay, how the water affects the behaviour and feel of the material.

Extension

When dry, the prints can be decorated and varnished to make a lasting record of this moment in their life. This could be used as a gift for a special occasion.

Evaluation