

Messy Play!



Why messy play?

Messy play gives children of any age the opportunity to:

- Learn about textures, consistencies and how materials can change.
- Experience a range of sensations.
- Have the freedom to explore for themselves where there is no right or wrong.
- Gives them a feel for the use of hands, fingers and feet.
- Support language development.
- Support the development of peer interaction.

What is the adults role in messy play?

- ❖ Encourage.
- ❖ Give time.
- ❖ Know when help is needed.
- ❖ Be ready with enhancements.
- ❖ Enjoy!



Tips when using language:

- Follow your child's lead, **don't be tempted to tell them what to do!**
- **Comment** on what they are doing, e.g. "falling" "squashing".
- **Try not to ask them lots of questions.**
- Keep your language quite simple, **sometimes repeating key words**, e.g. "'rolling the dough, 'making a snake'".
- Give your child time to respond.