

The Infants' Home

Child and Family Services

The Infants' Home at Home Series

Making paint

What you need

- Cornflour
- Cold water (room temp)
- Boiling water
- Food colouring
- Paint brush
- Small pots (make some from recycled materials!)

How you do it

- Boil water
- Place 3 tablespoons of cornflour into a medium sized bowl
- Stir in, just enough cold water to create a smooth liquid, to the consistency of cream.
- Slowly stir in boiling water whilst stirring with a fork or whisk. The mixture should begin to thicken and becomes translucent. . Keep stirring and adding water until it is the consistency of paste or paint. Let the glue cool. It will thicken further as it cools.
- Add mixture to small pots and add in food colouring to create the paint!

Tip: If you have eye droppers, these are perfect for allowing children to control the amount of dye added and experience the density of colour as more is added.

Learning Opportunities

- When using the boiling water you broaden your child's understanding of risk within the home, dangers to children, and the important steps taken by an adult to keep themselves and children safe.
- Experience the science behind ingredients and the changes that occur e.g., as water heats it boils, steam rises, then evaporates. When cornflour makes contact with hot water it changes its structure, and it absorbs the water causing it to thicken.

Further Opportunities

- Can you create colour from items in your home? The stamen of flowers? Turmeric? Beetroot? Can you make paint by adding drops of water and paint with these?
- Explore the colour where and begin to discuss and explore the difference between primary colours and secondary colours.



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