

Play-based home learning ideas:

Moon sand

Mix flour and cooking oil until sand consistency. Add food colors if desired. Play with cups, spoons, forks, and sand toys! Use on tile or non-carpeted surfaces for easy clean up.

Chalk paint

Use cornstarch and food coloring, mix with water for a thin consistency. Paint with your chalk paint outside or on sidewalk!

Salt Dough

2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup cold water. Mix together well and let rest 20 minutes before sculpting. Bake at 250 degrees for about 2 hours when finished. Paint if desired.

Pasta beading

Use regular or colored pasta (recipe below) and string onto pipe cleaners or string. Great for fine motor skills!

Rainbow pasta

- Pasta of various shapes and sizes (tube pasta such as ziti make the best beads)
- Rubbing alcohol (or white vinegar)
- Food coloring

Divide pasta into freezer bags. Use one bag for each color, but you can mix and match the pasta shapes.

Working with one bag at a time, add 1 teaspoon of rubbing alcohol to the bag. Close the top and scrunch it around in your hands to distribute the alcohol.

Then add your food coloring to the bag. Again close the top and scrunch it around in your hands to distribute the color.

Spread the dyed pasta out on a cookie sheet (you may want to line yours first with wax paper or aluminum foil) and let dry overnight.

Foam party

Mix 2 parts water to 1 part bubble bath. For color, add a little food coloring then whip it with a hand mixer on med-high for one minute. Use a big bowl and you'll end up with stiff peaks. You'll just "know" when it's done and ready. If you've ever made whipping cream, this it's similar to that concept.

Paint with water or ice cubes

Paint outside with plain water! Use big Lego blocks or sticks, forks, spoons frozen into ice cubes so kids can hold ice. Maybe add food coloring the ice if desired.

Make an outdoor art garden

Paint sticks, make signs, rearrange rocks. Make fairy or garden gnome puppets (use paper and craft sticks). Make a play with your puppets in your garden.

Paint some kindness rocks

Clean a rock and decorate with whatever you've got- acrylic paint, Sharpies, paint pens. Seal if you have mod podge. Wear a smock!

Tin foil river

Make a river using tin foil in the backyard. Build boats with cups, modeling clay, foil, paper. Add sails and race!

Try to make a kite and fly it!

<https://www.instructables.com/id/Easy-Paper-Kite-for-Kids/>

Give them supplies and let them get to work!

You'll be amazed what kids can do with simple supplies!

Take a nature walk together

Collect sticks, rocks, leaves and build a structure with what you find!

Tower building contest

Use legos, magnetiles, cups, Tupperware, sticks, crackers, blocks, or anything else to have a tower building competition!

Write a story together and illustrate it!

Use paper, pencils, anything you have!

Try a community drawing!

Pass one drawing around your family and have each person add something new. What will you get?