

Let's Play Together!

Let's Get Messy: Preschoolers

Literacy begins at home and grows through sensory play. Children naturally gain skills during play activities. Here are some easy and fun messy activities that support your preschool child's development:

Play outdoors. When the weather cooperates, digging dirt, splashing in puddles and squishing mud are fun and messy outdoor activities that need very little preparation.



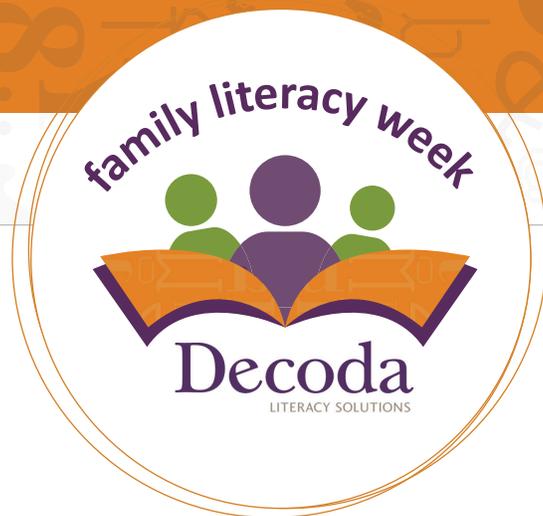
Paint with an eyedropper. Put a paper towel on a plate or in a pan. Using plastic eyedroppers and watered down washable paint, show your child how to load the eye dropper and then release paint drops onto the paper towel. What happens? Try different colours.

Make cloud dough. Mix 4 c. flour with 1/2 c. cooking oil for crumbly but mouldable play material. Store in a covered container. For easier clean up, cover the floor and table with plastic sheets.



Prepare food together. Washing fruit, making salad, and baking cookies offer all different kinds of experiences. Following a recipe adds to the learning.

Try woodworking. Start slowly (sandpaper and a piece of wood) and build gradually (tighten or loosen screws in a block of wood, hammer golf tees into Styrofoam with a soft mallet). Adult supervision is required.



During these activities, your child:

- Learns about colour, shape, size, texture, and taste
- Develops eye-hand coordination and small muscle control
- Learns to count and measure
- Learns new words
- Practices making choices and making things happen

And, all these skills are important for learning to read, write and use numbers.

For more playful family fun ideas, visit www.decoda.ca