

PAINT IN A BAG



This mess-free art activity invites children to explore their senses while creating colorful finger paintings in a new way.

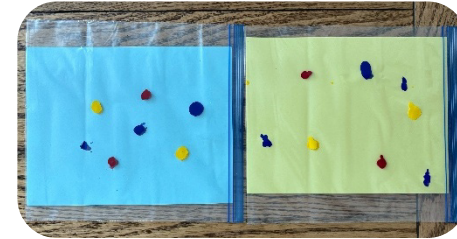
FOLLOW THE CHILD'S LEAD BY COPYING AND BUILDING UPON THEIR PLAY

*"I notice you started with the orange paint.
I'm going to start with orange, too!"*

*"I see you are making a line with the blue paint.
I'm going to try to make a circle!"*

MATERIALS

- gallon sized freezer bags
- sheets of cardstock
- tempera paint in different colors



STEPS

- 1 Place one sheet of cardstock inside each freezer bag.
- 2 Add some blobs of paint in different colors to each sheet of cardstock.
- 3 Seal each freezer bag tightly, removing all excess air.
- 4 Place each bag on a flat surface.
- 5 Squish the paint around the sheet of cardstock to create works of art!
- 6 Take a moment to first intentionally observe the child as they begin painting.
- 7 Then, copy and build on what you see the child do on your own painting.
- 8 When finished, open the bag to carefully remove the cardstock and lay it flat to dry.

WHAT'S THE "WHY" OF THIS ACTIVITY?

Copying and building upon a child's play communicates to them that what they are doing is interesting, meaningful, and important. Following a child's lead in play builds their confidence and ability to make decisions and regulate their own behavior when playing.