

The New York Public Library

A Day of Play

No Mess Finger Painting

No mess painting is a great way to introduce painting to your child, without the worry of a big clean up! Playing with paint can open up many opportunities for learning such as learning colors and color mixing, hand and finger fine motor skills, and learning shapes and letters.

MATERIALS:

- Large plastic zip seal bag.
- Non-toxic paint
- Duct tape or masking tape

Don't have paint on hand? Mix flour and water OR shaving cream with food coloring to make homemade finger paint.

HOW TO PLAY:

Add non-toxic paint OR alternative (see above) to a large zip seal bag. Zip the bag shut and tape all four sides down to a table top or floor.

Let your child mix colors, trace lines, squish, and create anything using their fingers!

Safety tip: Always supervise your child during play. Remind children to be gentle while drawing to keep from tearing the bag

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- Have your child choose 2-3 favorite colors. "What happens as the colors mix? What new colors do you see?"
- Practice drawing shapes, write the alphabet, or write your child's name! "What is your favorite shape? Can we draw it?" "Can you trace your name in the paint?"
- Let's paint a picture! What can you draw in the paint?"

