



ACTIVITIES

Everything old is new again... when you take it outside!

OUTSIDE CHALK DRAWING

There's just something about drawing with chalk outside on a big surface. Set off a safe area (concrete porch, blacktop area, or deck) for chalk drawing. Have chalk ready to go in a bucket. Let children take turns carrying it outside. Start drawing! Cleanup is easy. Children can help pour or spray water on the chalk and scrub the pictures away with a large brush. The surface will be ready for the next day.



RECIPE FOR HOMEMADE CHALK

What you need:

- 1 cup plaster of Paris
- 1 cup water
- Powdered tempera paint
- Mold for chalk (small paper cups, styrofoam cups, toilet tissue rolls*)
- Mixing bowl

What to do:

In a large bowl, mix the water and plaster of Paris together. Add 2 or 3 tablespoons of tempera paint to the mixture. Once the paint has been mixed in well, set it aside for a few minutes. Pour the mixture into the

mold and let it dry. This can take anywhere from several hours to a day. Remember: The bigger the mold, the longer it will take to dry.

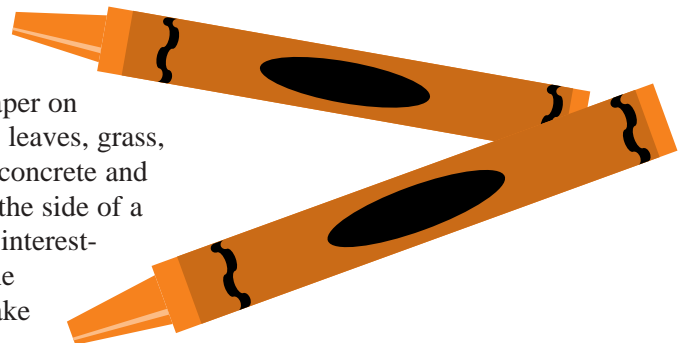
Once the mold is dry, remove the chalk. If the chalk is still moist, let it air dry for another 24 hours.

* (If using tissue rolls — make a mold by covering one end of the tissue tube with duct tape. Loosely roll up a piece of waxed paper and slip it into the tube. This lining keeps the plaster from sticking to the mold)

OUTSIDE COLORING

Crayons go outside! Even those stubby little ones at the bottom of the container that no one likes to use are appealing when you think of the possibilities for coloring outdoors. Simply placing a piece of paper on things like tree bark, leaves, grass, tabletops, bricks, or concrete and gently rubbing with the side of a crayon will produce interesting results. Put all the papers together a make

a book. Label and write something about each rubbing. Sit together and read your "coloring book" on a rainy day.

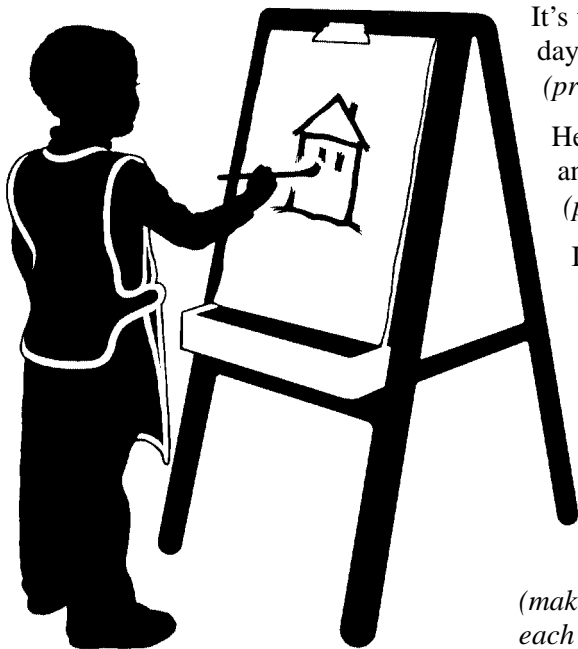


OUTSIDE SCIENCE

Sun Prints — Have the children place small safe toys or objects on pieces of dark construction paper. Set the paper in direct sunlight. At the end of the day have the children remove the objects and observe what has happened to the paper. Which spots are lighter than others? Why?

OUTSIDE PAINTING

Take your easel outside or hang large pieces of paper on the fence or wall. Match paint to the colors that the children see. Trees, shrubs, and flowers in bloom will be their inspiration. Put these colors in cups, add brushes, and your “landscape artists” are ready to paint what they see.



OUTSIDE MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Here is Summer

Here is summer's big warm sun
(place hands in circle over head)

It's time for fishing, hiking, and fun.

(pretend to be fishing and hiking — smile!)

Under the tree is a shady spot
(spread arms and fingers out)

It's time for picnicking when days are hot.
(pretend to eat)

Here is the sand to shovel and dig
(pretend to dig)

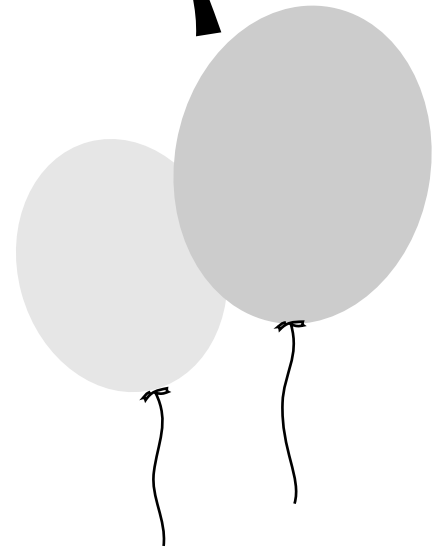
It's time for making roads and castles big.
(shape castles)

Here is the water, its cool waves sway.
(sway body and hands from side to side)

It's time for splashing and playing all day!
(make splashing motions at each other)



For more
Activity ideas, visit us
on the web at:
betterkidcare.psu.edu
or call the telephone
help line at
1-800-859-8340.



OUTSIDE GAMES

Suns in the Sky — Blow up several yellow balloons and tell the children that these are “sun” balloons. Give each child a balloon and encourage them to spread out so they have lots of room. Have them bat their balloon “suns” up into the air and try to keep them up. When a child’s balloon “sun” falls to the ground, that child needs to sit on the ground with it. Continue the game until everyone is sitting on the ground.

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