

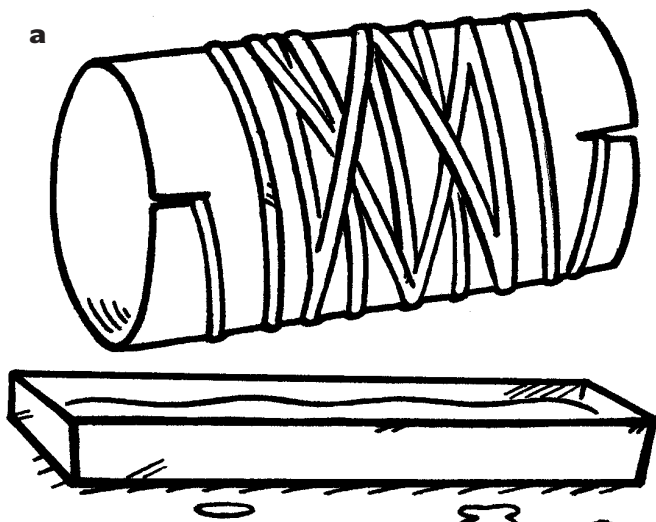
Getting messy

Have fun making a mess as you encourage your child's creative skills and language development with these great activities

'Messy play' is an exciting theme for young children to explore. Creative skills can be developed by mixing finger paints in primary colours (red, blue and yellow) to create secondary colours (orange, purple and green) or by combining chalk and charcoal to create imaginative black, white and grey scenes.

Language skills can be encouraged during cooking activities by discussing the textures of pre-baked mixtures and gooey ingredients. Skills in exploration can be developed by carrying out activities that involve potentially messy tasks such as planting, weeding and pond-dipping.

a



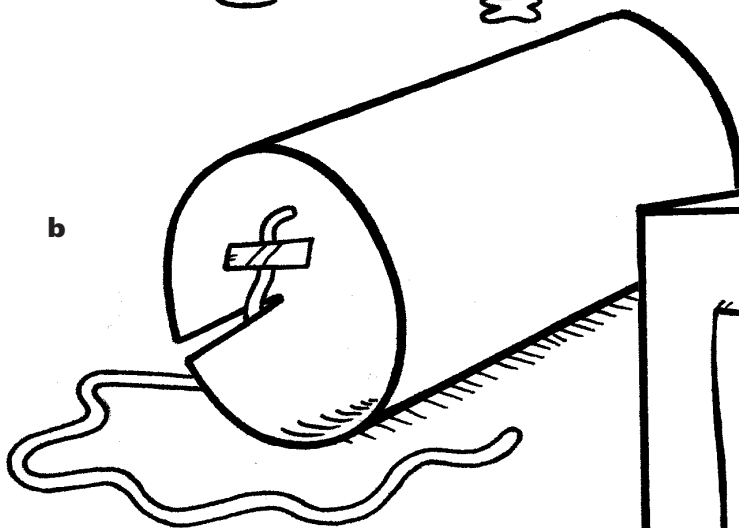
Paint and print

Invite your child to make a printing tube for creating colourful abstract pictures. Help them to cut a short slit in both ends of a cardboard tube. Slot a length of string through the slit and tape it inside the tube (a). Wrap the string around the tube. Tape the other end of the string through the second slit in the tube (b). Pour some paint in a shallow tray. Dip the tube in the paint then roll the tube over a sheet of paper. Repeat several times then leave to dry.



Create a multicoloured design by using two or more trays of paint. Help your child to attach the pattern to a piece of folded card to make a greetings card (c).

b



c



Useful books

- *Don't Put Your Finger in the Jelly, Nelly! and Ketchup on your Cornflakes?* by Nick Sharratt (Scholastic)
- *Creative Fun (10-Minute Ideas for Early Years series, Scholastic)*
- *My Art Class* by Nellie Shepherd (Dorling Kindersley)

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