



ICE CUBE PAINTING

Suits ages 16 – 36 months



What you will need:

- Star/square/heart ice cube trays
- Food colouring – red, blue, orange, green and yellow
- Lollypop sticks (to hold the ice with)
- Thick paper

What you do:

1. Add the water into the ice cube trays, and then let your child add a couple of drops of food colouring into the water. Use a variety of colours in different shapes.
2. Add the lollypop sticks into the water, ensuring half of the stick is out of the water.
3. Place in the freezer for 4 hours or until they are completely frozen.
4. When frozen remove from the freezer, use warm water if needed to loosen the ice and use the stick to pull the ice out of the tray. Place these then in a paint tray to stop them dripping.
5. This is a great activity to do either outside or inside.
6. Let your child use the different shapes to mark make and paint different pictures on the paper. Ask your child questions throughout such as; what colours are you using? What shapes are you using? What do the ice cubes feel like? Are they hot or cold? What are you painting? And so on.
7. Keep a flannel close by as your child's hands may get some slight colouring from the food colouring.

This is a perfect activity to support your child's learning and development within physical development with regards to their fine motor skills as they grasp the lollypop stick to paint with the ice. This supports your child in making connections between their movements and the marks they make, thus supporting their gross motor skills as well. Communication and language can also be developed through this, through asking simple questions in which your child can understand and



answer. Additionally, through encouraging them to use every day verbs such as 'cold' will build upon their vocabulary.

For older children this can support literacy development with regards to developing their ability to distinguish between the different marks they make. Furthermore, through using differently shaped ice cubes this supports learning in Mathematics through allowing children to start to recognise simple shapes in their pictures.