

Session 3 Mixing colours Practical activities

These activities should be attempted when the children are familiar with the use of brushes and application of paint. The activities will involve supervision as the children explore colour mixing for themselves.

Demonstration

Using either powder or ready-mixed paint show the children how to spoon yellow paint from a container into a mixing tray. If you are using powder paint add a small amount of water and stir using a plastic spoon. Add blue paint to the mixing tray and mix this paint together with the yellow – ask the children what they think may happen. Then ask them to watch to see what actually happens to the paint. What colour do you have now?

Mixing paint

Provide the children with mixing trays, spoons and small pots of water.

Demonstrate each step again and provide close supervision as children embark on colour mixing. If you are using powder paint show the children how to add a small measure of water to mix with the powder to begin with, and then another measure before mixing again.

Talk to the children about consistency – thick paint becomes thinner when you add more water.

Test the colours and consistency by painting onto strips of paper.

Talk to the children about their choices and results.

The activity should be carried out using the primary colours: red and blue – red and yellow – blue and yellow.

When each colour is mixed the children should record their colours on a strip of paper.

During the Foundation Stage these activities should include the mixing of both ready-mixed and powder paint.

Development

As the children become more confident and skilled in handling tools and resources for mixing, the activities can be repeated and developed by:

- using secondary colours – green, orange, purple
- adding white to colours in small and larger amounts
- adding black to colours in small and larger amounts.

Encourage them to explore and experiment with colour mixing by matching colours, and by naming their colours. Encourage children to use and apply the skills of colour mixing in subsequent painting sessions.

Assessment opportunities

- Are the children able to mix and name primary and secondary colours with confidence?
- Are they able to control paint and water and recognise and mix to different consistencies?
- Can they work with different types of paint?
- Can they talk about their work?



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Evaluation

How did the activity go?

