

Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc

HOME LEARNING – Creative Arts & Science



Painting with Magnets

What you need:

- A shoe box (any large box will work)
- A piece of white paper
- Paint colours
- A paper clip (or another magnetic object)
- Magnet



Experiment:

1. Assist children to stick a piece of white paper to the inside bottom of a shoe box.
2. Pour some drops of different paint colours of child's choice on the paper.
3. Place the paper clip (can use metal studs) on the paper.
4. Have the child move the magnet beneath the box from one place to the other, see how the colours blend beautifully together.
Optional: You might like to discuss what new colours have been made. You can even try adding multiple paperclips to see what happens.

Intentional teaching:

Magnetism is the attraction of two items making them stick together! Even from a distance magnet can find each other because of their magnetic field. A magnetic field is an invisible area all around the magnet that attracts other magnetic material.

Learning outcomes:

- In terms of physical health, this activity supports children to develop fine motor skills. It involves the coordination between the brain and muscles.
- In term of mathematics, adjusting magnets and paperclips in different directions contribute to the formation of spatial awareness which includes 'spatial reasoning' and 'spatial visualisation'.

"Spatial reasoning is the ability to see, inspect, and reflect on spatial objects, images, relationships, and transformations"¹.

"Spatial visualisation is the ability to generate and manipulate a mental image or representation of spatial relationships"¹.

- In terms of creative arts, children explore how to create pictures without using brushes or pens.
- In terms of creative arts, children learn about how to mix colours to create a range of new colours.
- In terms of science, children explore and learn about magnetism and magnetic fields.

MacDonald, A 2018, *Mathematics in Early Childhood Education* 1st edn, Oxford University Press.¹

