



Just Add Water...

Corn flour is an amazing resources which provides numerous provocations for play, learning and creativity and arouses a number of children's senses.



What to do: Simply give your loved one a space to play. A small jug of water and the bag of corn flour. You are primarily looking for the two ingredients to mix together to form a thick paste that will flow slowly when held in hands or left to run off the back of a spoon. Allow your little one to mix it together and watch them explore and make new connections in their learning. Although it may look messy, a little bit of lukewarm water soon clears it away. It is easy to brush off clothing/floors- simply allow to dry.

What can your child learn from this type of play?

Physical Benefits: Sensory play helps fine motor movements as well as hand-eye coordination. Children are likely to repeat patterns of play i.e. movements which in turn will help to develop muscles. If this is provided on a large scale (in a baby bath for example) they will also have the opportunity to develop whole body co-ordination.

Cognitive Benefits: The sensory nature of the gloop play will stimulate and arouse your child's brain, allowing them to develop an understanding texture and the properties of the gloop. Trial and error may also be explored. *Try playing alongside your child may copy your actions/movements you make in the gloop.*

Language Benefits: We strongly suggest you play alongside so your child so that you can make a running commentary of what they are doing so they have the opportunity to make word/phrase associations about what they are doing. Toddlers and older children may natural talk as they play and explore...this is the perfect time to engage in a conversation.

Social and Emotional Benefits: Sensory activities are relaxing and enjoyable experiences for children. They can explore at their own leisure allowing them to feel in control of their own learning/play. It is also good to relieve frustration. By exploring and playing alongside will allow you and your child to affirm attachments and positive relationships.

Laura
Says:



"Children's natural creativity needs to be fostered and celebrated in a variety of forms. Providing a diverse range of materials such as gloop and tools will give children the choice of how they want to explore and investigate this messy, sensory play resource. It is important that they are allowed to express themselves. So remember to accept their meanings and praise their creativity.... Even if you are a little stressed about the mess!"

How to enhance and extend play and learning experiences:

In order to make the corn flour and gloop mixture a little more inviting and add a few drops of food colouring. For another sensory element you could add a few drops of food essence so that it has a nice smell to it. Why not try adding some glitter or using tools such as cups, jugs, bowls, spoons and whisks.

