



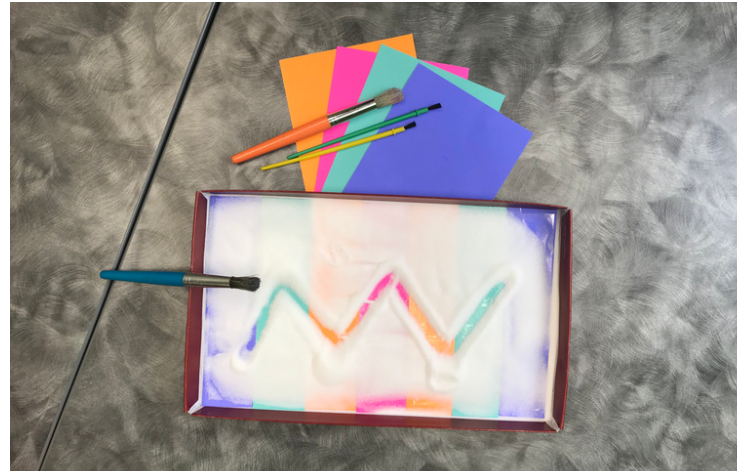
Salt Tray

Episode 51

Introduction

Writing is one way to cultivate print awareness for emergent learners. This early literacy activity focuses on skills needed to produce print, like hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.

Using a salt tray is a fun sensory activity to incorporate writing during playtime! In the salt, children can begin the writing process by drawing lines and shapes, which is a fundamental step in learning how to write letters in the alphabet.



Supplies

- Color paper
- Packing tape
- Shoe box lid
- Glue (optional)
- Salt
- Paint brush

Instructions

1. Cut strips of paper: Measure and cut two inch strips of paper to the length of your tray.
2. Glue strips to tray (optional): Glue strips of paper to the tray. You can make any patterns you want.
3. Tape paper at the seams: Place packing tape over the seams to avoid salt moving beneath the color paper.
4. Cover tray with a shallow layer of salt: Start out with an 1/8 cup of salt. Add more salt if needed. The amount of salt will vary based on tray size.

How to Use Your Salt Tray

Spread out the salt tray by shaking it slightly. You only need a shallow layer. Have your child use their fingers to draw in the salt. You can also practice pencil holding skills by writing in your salt tray with a paint brush!

Additional Resources

Visit Plano Public Library's official [YouTube channel](#) to view this activity and other Library Make videos

Check out our blog post about this activity at [Plano Library Learns](#)

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