



Writing 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. 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.

Using a salt tray is a fun sensory activity to incorporate writing during playtime. 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.



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 packaging tape over the seams to avoid salt moving underneath 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.

More Resources

Visit the Plano Public Library's official [YouTube channel](#) to view this activity and other Library Make Instruction videos. And check out our blog post about this activity at kidsbrainplano.org/librarymake.

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