

Preschool Math: Colorful Salt Tray Numbers

Learning Value:

This activity promotes development and learning by encouraging children to demonstrate an understanding of number names, order, and quantity and use hands and fingers to explore and interact with the environment.

Materials Needed:

- ▶ Baking tray, shallow bin, or cardboard box (cut the sides down if necessary)
- ▶ 2-3 cups of salt or fine, clean sand
- ▶ Colored construction paper or colorful wrapping paper
- ▶ Glue or double stick tape
- ▶ Paintbrush, chopstick, or stick
- ▶ Small pieces of paper with a number written on each one

Participants:

This activity is intended for independent play with approximately 5 minutes of adult preparation

Directions:

Step 1: Write numerals on the pieces of paper, one number to a piece. The numerals 1-10, are a good place to start for preschoolers. You can add 11-20 for a challenge if your child is familiar with them.

Step 2: Choose 4-5 sheets of colored paper (or one sheet of wrapping paper) and cut to fit the base of the tray.



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Layer them in the tray and glue or tape the seams together to prevent the salt from moving underneath the paper.



Step 3: Cover the paper with a layer of salt/sand approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep.



Step 4: Give your child a paintbrush or stick and encourage them to take a number card and try writing that numeral in the salt tray. The tactile experience may also encourage other creative activities for your child, such as making shapes and patterns.



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