

Make Shapes while the Sun Shines!

What you need:

- Large bowls/buckets of water.
- A selection of brooms, mops, large paint brushes, sponges etc.
- Playground, concrete or patio slabs.



What you do:

- Provide containers of water and let the children choose their painting tool to draw shapes on the ground. At first let them enjoy the free play and mark making on a big scale with their large brushes! Ask them to draw circles by turning around on one spot, dragging a wet broom as they go. They will feel the difference when drawing a square. Give them directions, for example: walk four steps forward pushing the broom in front, turn to the right, four steps forward etc. Make up instructions for drawing rectangles and triangles. Use the paint brushes to draw smaller shapes and patterns. Take photographs and make your own shape posters.

Questions and prompts:

- Can you draw a smaller/larger circle?
- What is the same and what is different about drawing a rectangle and a square?
- How long do you think your shape will stay on the playground? How can we time it?
- Will you be able to count to ten before it dries up and is gone?
- Will you finish drawing that huge rectangle before the first part of it dries?

Extend the play:

- Encourage the children to paint big numbers and shapes with the water on the paving slabs. Discuss with them how long it takes for their marks to evaporate in the sunshine. Does it make any difference how much water you use? Create a puddle and help them draw round the perimeter of it with chalk. Discuss how long they think it will take to dry up and disappear. Will it be gone by the time we count to twenty ...in an hour ... by break time ...by lunch time ...by the time we go home ...?