



4 Chalk Activities for Preschoolers

These four fun chalk-based activities will help develop hand strength, fine motor skills, visual skills, listening skills and creative thinking. Outdoors is recommended but can be adapted to indoors too.

Cave Art:

Cave paintings were the first form of art, and how we communicated before language and alphabet. This fun and inexpensive activity recreates ancient cave paintings. It requires minimal set up & clean up, is perfect for all ages, (even preschoolers) and can be completed in 20 minutes or less.

SUPPLIES:

Newspaper or disposable tablecloth
Brown kraft or butcher paper (11" x 18")

Chalk or pastels - natural colors
Brushes & Water

1. Research to find some images of actual cave paintings for inspiration
2. Put newspaper or disposable tablecloth down on work surface to protect it
3. Crumple the brown paper and smooth out several times to give it an 'aged' look
4. Direct children to draw animals and symbols to mimic the actual cave paintings
5. Guide children to smudge the chalk with fingers or use a brush and water to create shading
6. Allow to dry and frame! (Don't forget to write child's name on the bottom)
7. This activity can be used on a large sheet of paper, attached to a wall to mimic a real "cave"

Home-Made Chalk Recipe:

Making home-made chalk is a fun activity that you can do with kids before Cave Paintings, or other art projects. This chalk is best used outdoors, but feel free to use with other art activities as well.

SUPPLIES:

1 cup warm water
1 1/2 - 2 cups Plaster of Paris (dry) for each color
Powdered or liquid tempera paints (assorted colors)
Disposable plastic containers (large yogurt, margarine or cottage cheese containers, one for each color)
Large plastic spoon or chopstick for stirring
Molds for the chalk (small paper cups, egg cartons, small yogurt containers, or toilet/paper towel rolls)

1. Prepare the molds. If you are using cardboard egg cartons, line with a piece of wax paper to prevent chalk from sticking. If using paper rolls, cut to size & wrap duct tape around the outside and over one end of the tube. Line the inside of the tube with wax paper to keep the chalk from sticking.
2. Pour warm water into a disposable plastic container. Stir in small spoonfuls of Plaster of Paris until the water doesn't absorb the powder any more. The mixture should be stiff but stir able, the consistency of frosting.
3. Working quickly, and before the plaster sets, add 1-3 teaspoons of the paint, making sure the consistency remains. (To make pastel colors, mix the paints with white. Stir thoroughly for solid-colored chalk or leave swirled for a marbled look.)
4. Pour the colored plaster mixture into the molds and set them aside, undisturbed, to dry completely. (This will take about 2 to 24 hours depending on climate, temperature, humidity, size of chalk piece and the amount of water in the plaster/paint mixture.)

5. Repeat steps 1 – 4 with each additional desired color.
6. When all are completely dry, remove the chalk from the molds & use as desired
7. Store in an airtight container, away from moisture.

Shadow Art:

SUPPLIES:

a partner/friend
sidewalk chalk

sunshine
an open sidewalk for drawing

1. Before you start, ensure that the area you will be drawing in is free from traffic. Once secure, show the kids how their shadow moves when they do, and makes different shapes on the ground. Have them observe their shadow for a few minutes as they move around-arms up, legs up, jump, dance, etc. When they find a shadow shape they like, have them “freeze” in that position (“like a statue”).
2. Have the partner/friend trace the shadow outline with a piece of chalk.
3. Have the partners switch, and repeat steps 1 & 2
4. Look at the shapes and see what it looks like? What could you draw around it or add to it?
5. Draw in the other details – (trees, flags, houses, animals, swing sets, rocket ships, capes, crowns, sailboats, butterflies, dragons, etc.)
6. This activity can be repeated or varied by tracing the shadows of other items: outdoor furniture, trees, flowers, boxes, bikes, etc.) and adding in other details as in step 5.

Chalk Walk & Water Wash: (Game)

SUPPLIES:

different colors of sidewalk chalk

small buckets of water

an large open sidewalk or driveway for drawing

large paintbrushes (used for painting walls)

1. Draw several squiggly lines on the driveway/play surface, extending from one end to the opposite end. Draw each line in a different color, and one for each player. The lines may cross over and intersect with each other
2. Place a bucket of water with a paint brush at one end of the driveway, one by the end of each of the colored lines
3. Each player starts at the opposite end of the driveway, at the other end of their colored line. When you say “go”, players each walk along their own colored chalk line, until they get to the end where the water & paint brush are.
4. When they get to the other end, each player picks up the bucket and paint brush and “paints” with water along their colored chalk line, all the way back to where they started, washing it away.
5. For older children, this can be a friendly competitive relay race, using two or multiple players, and for younger children it can just be a fun skill-building challenge, and not competitive at all.
6. Older children can also set up the course for the younger ones. So much fun!

For more fun skill-building Games and activities visit:

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