

Shaving Cream Fun

Children have an opportunity to experience sensory stimulation and explore open-ended, imaginative play.

START

- The goal of this activity is for children to explore sensory, imaginative activities using shaving cream as the base. Caution: shaving cream can sting if it gets in the eyes.
- Set up the table with the 3 mixing bins with 2–3" of shaving cream and 1 big rubber duck in each. Place the assorted animals and tools around the bins.
- Invite children and adults to explore playing with the shaving cream. They can "wash" the duck or other props; have the props "swim" through the shaving cream; or just rub, squeeze, or squish the shaving cream with their hands.
- Because of its messy nature, adults could be hesitant to have their children participate in the activity. Offer a smock, and emphasize that the material is washable.
- Remind visitors to roll up their sleeves.
- Some children may have "tactile oversensitivity," meaning they don't like touching sensory materials. They can be encouraged to watch their grownup or the other children play.

NEXT STEPS

- For younger children, let them explore the material with their hands. Pay close attention to toddlers who may mistake it for whipped cream and try to eat it! They may clap, smear, rub, or decorate their arms or the table. Guide them to keep the shaving cream on their hands and in the bins. Ask them if they want to give the animals a bath or take the duck for a swim.
- For older children, you can suggest that they take the tools and "cut up" or "spoon out" the shaving cream. They can also "dress up" the animals in shaving cream clothes or hairstyles.
- Ask the children questions such as How does the shaving cream feel? Is it smooth or chunky? Is it slippery or sticky? What can you do with it? Does it stick when you put it on the duck's head or does it slide off?

MATERIALS

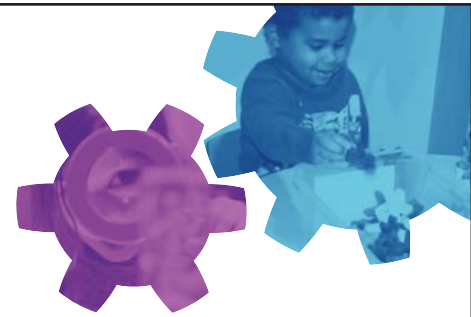
- * 4 cans of shaving cream
- * 3 mixing bins
- * 3 big rubber ducks
- * Masking tape
- * 10 smocks
- * Tempera paint in squirt bottles
- * Assorted plastic animals and boats
- * Assorted tools for shaving cream play, such as spoons and spatulas

Learning Guideline:

Science: Explore the environment through their senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste, using sensory vocabulary.

Tip Sheets:

Play, Explore



(continued from side 1)

FINISH UP

- Over time, the shaving cream will become watery. Pour out the old material and add more when that happens.
- Ask the children the following questions: What was your favorite thing to do with the materials? Did you use the tools or animals? What kinds of things did you discover about handling the shaving cream? Did you notice that it became watery when it was handled a lot?

EXPAND YOUR ACTIVITY

- You can put a few squirts of the tempera paint into the bins and let the children experiment with swirling it and mixing it into the shaving cream. You can put different colors into the 3 bins and let the children experiment with mixing the colors to get new ones.
- For younger children, the process of swirling the colors into the shaving cream can be a full activity.
- For older children, you can ask them to try to predict what will happen when they mix the different colors together.

TAKE IT HOME

- Children can doodle or draw with shaving cream on the tile wall in the bathtub. Washable paint can be added for more fun. When finished, the whole thing can be washed off with the shower or a washcloth.
- Let children experiment by adding other ingredients from your kitchen (such as ketchup, vinegar, or salt) to the shaving cream and see what happens. Does the color, texture, or consistency change? What happens if you add more shaving cream; does it change back?

BOOKS

- *I Love Messes!* by Robie H. Harris and illustrated by Nicole Hollander
- *The Ultimate Bubble Book: Soap Science Fun* by Shar Levine and Leslie Johnstone
- *Sid the Science Kid: Earth Day Fun* by Jennifer Frantz

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Funded by:
Department of Early
Education and Care
Race to the Top -
Early Learning Challenge Grant

