

Giant Drawing

BY [Janice Davis](#) ON Jan 29, 2012



An fun activity that can last for days and all members in the family can contribute to – a giant drawing!

A giant drawing is an oversized piece of paper that is stuck down using sticky tape. Over a period of days the drawing grows and develops, sometimes a bit of a theme or story grows with it.

It is a marvellous entertainer for the kids on school holidays or is stuck indoors due to weather or illness.

The giant drawing is also a wonderful social activity that involves the whole family to complete together.

What you will need?



To create the oversized canvas for our giant drawing we taped together numerous small sheets of paper together. This is the before photo, before every one made their mark on the giant drawing.

Let's Play



The giant drawing became a great social activity, as the day went on and circumstances changed in the house, sometimes we drew altogether, sometimes on our own and in pairs. It was wonderful for starting conversations and discussions between members in our family and building relationships. It was a family achievement completed together and something we all can be proud of.

Learning Opportunities

- Develop social skills: practicing negotiation skills, turn taking and sharing. Provides opportunities for working out problems and experimenting with solutions.
- Encourages imagination: Children can be anyone and do anything in the pretend world.
- Develop language skills: practicing listening, looking and talking. Being spoken to and talking with other people, also developing an understanding of what is being communicated through body language such as smiles and nodding.
- Self-expression, pride and sense of achievement.

Rainbow Salt Tray

BY [Janice Davis](#) ON Jun 5, 2012

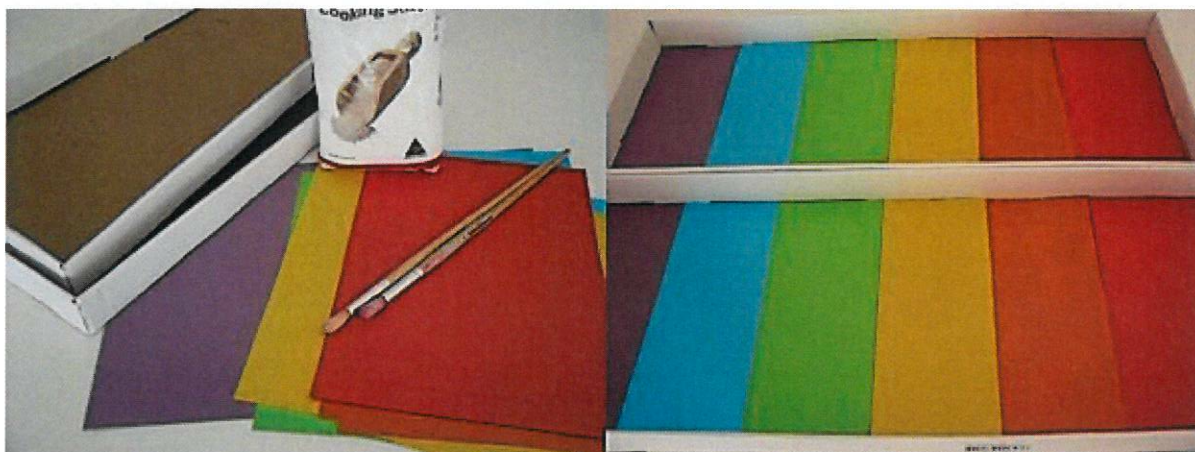


Rainbow Salt Tray is a fun and inviting pre-writing activity.

Why would you need crayons, textas, pencils and paper to draw when you can have more fun with a Rainbow Salt Tray! Draw pictures, create patterns and practise writing your name with this simple to make Rainbow Salt Tray. The greatest thing about a Rainbow Salt Tray is that it is cheap to set up, educational, you will find all the items around the home and it will entertain the littlies for hours!

A Rainbow Salt Tray is a great activity for kids of all ages, my 22 month old had a go and my 6 year old also had a play. I just adapted and encouraged some ideas for them to try as they played.

What you will need?



You will need 5 basic things to create your very own Rainbow Salt Tray: about 100g cooking salt, sticky tape, coloured paper, a tray (see below for some ideas) and a paint brush.

1. Cut the paper to fit and cover the base of the tray in order of the colours of a rainbow.
2. Place sticky tape over the joins of the paper to avoid the salt moving underneath the coloured paper.
3. Cover the paper lightly with salt.

Tip: Only a small amount of salt is required for this activity as too much can make it harder to see the drawings. You can also make your tray any colour you would like, possibly your child's favourite colour, whatever motivates or interests them!

Some ideas to use for a tray:

- The lid to a plastic tub or container.
- A cardboard box with the side cut down to size if needed.
- A medium to large plastic container that has low sides.

Let's Play

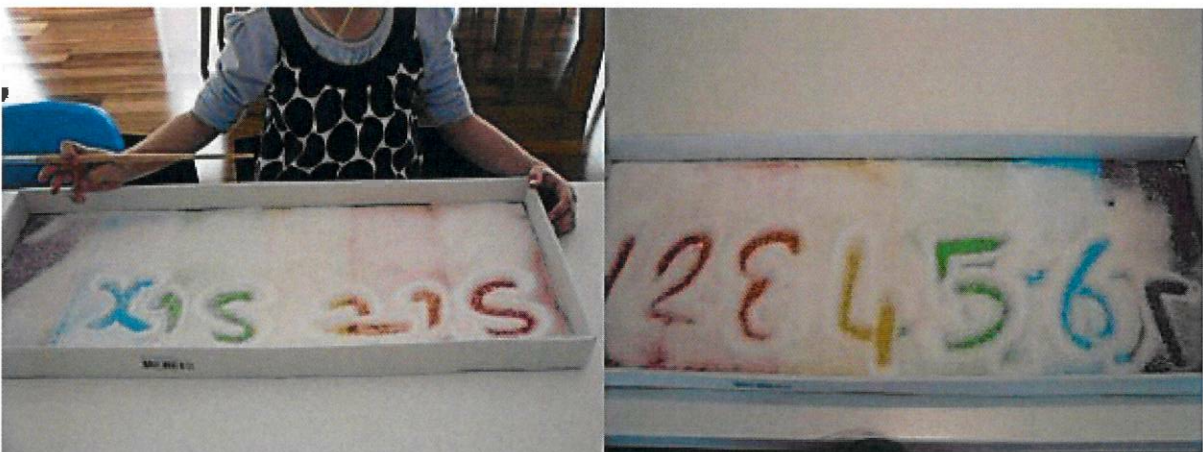
There are SO MANY things you can do with a Rainbow Salt Tray – here are a few ideas to try!



The Rainbow Salt Tray is a great activity for Miss 4 to practise writing her name and for Miss 22 months exploring the cause and effect of what happens when using the paint brush in the salt. I think the look on her face says it all – FUN!

The Rainbow Salt Tray is a fabulous motivator to get kids who need that extra support to learn how to write their names. The fun is watching the colours come through when writing and drawing in the salt.

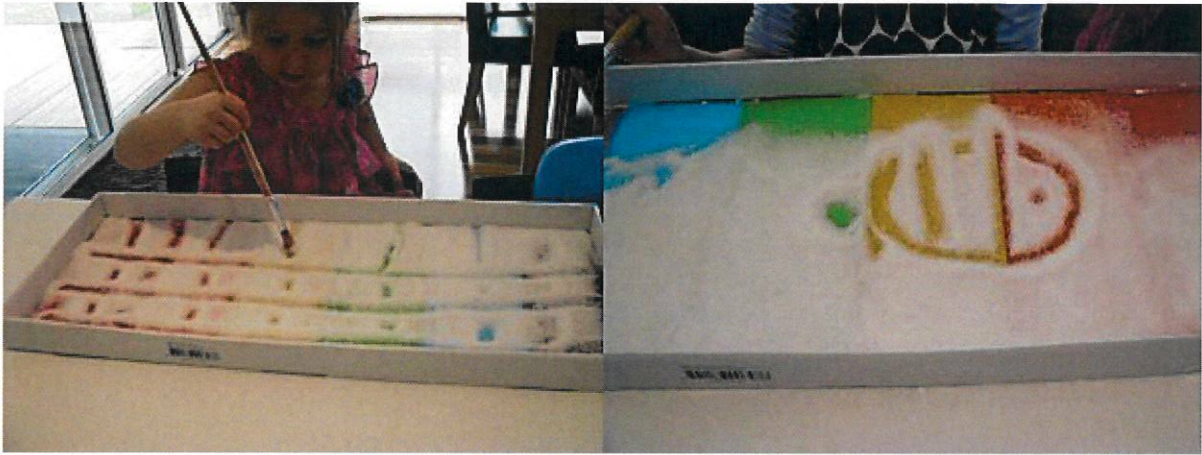
Let's Learn



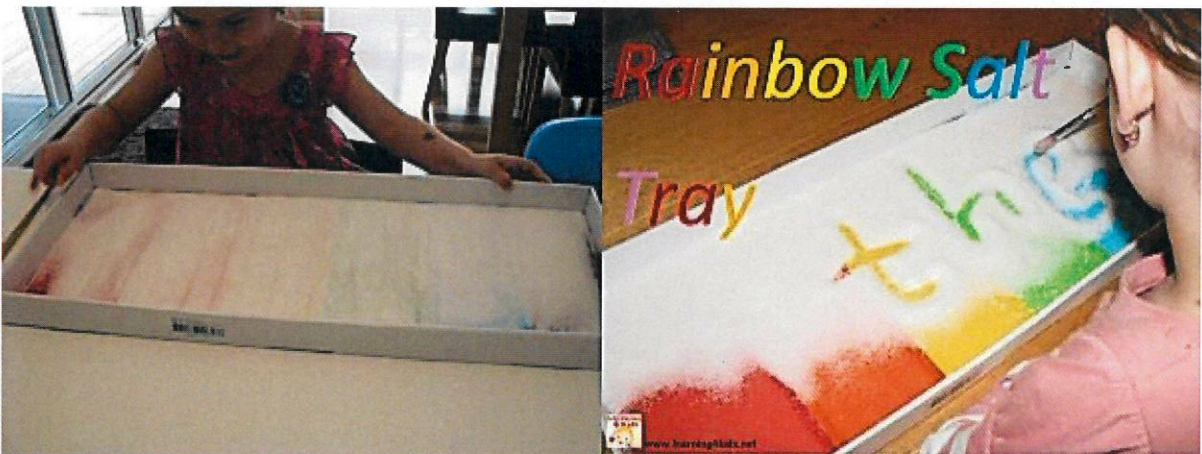
Miss 4 loves her numbers at the moment but is reluctant to try and write the 'more difficult' shape numbers such as 2 and 5. She was more willing to have a go in the salt tray because she could so easily shake the tray and try again! I also lightly formed their shaped in the salt for her to copy and trace over.

Miss 6 practising her current sight words, no boring paper and pencils here!

Let's Explore



The Rainbow Salt Tray is great for encouraging creativity, with the freedom to make patterns and pictures.



Shake it and start again! Hours of fun!!

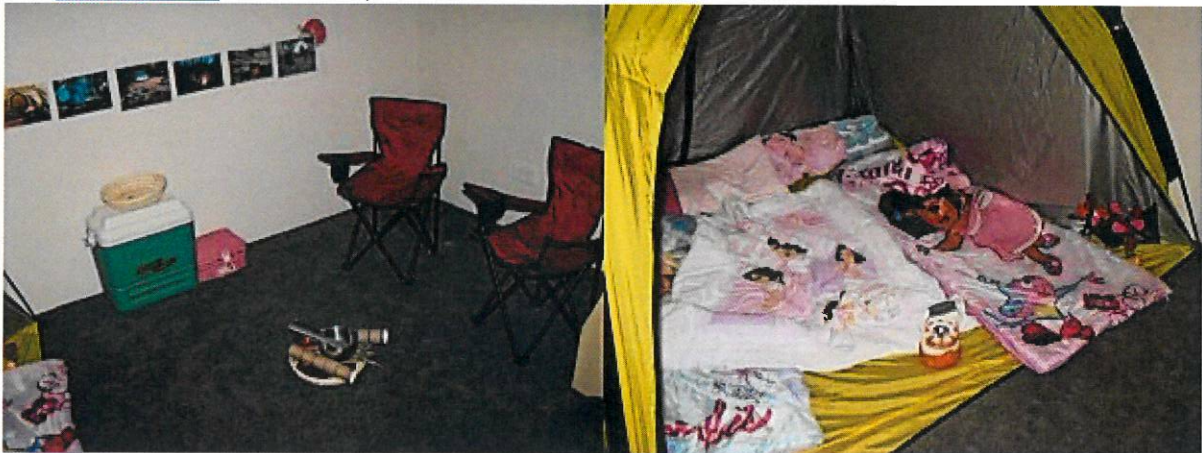
Learning benefits of playing with a Rainbow Salt Tray:

- Creativity

- Fine Motor Development – Pre-writing skills
- Hand-Eye Coordination
- Cause and Effect
- Spatial awareness – experimenting with shape and space

Rainy Day Activity – Indoor Camping

BY [Janice Davis](#) ON Jun 14, 2012



It's raining, it's pouringand we have been stuck inside a fair bit lately with the weather.

To entertain the kids and give them something to do we set up an indoor camping trip to beat the boredom and promote imaginative play.

Here are a few ideas for setting up your own Indoor Campsite.

What you will need?

Firstly we set up a tent with sleeping bags, pillows and a torch. Then we set out some camping chairs, esky filled with pretend food, cooking utensils and crockery such as tongs and cooking pots and pans. On the wall we placed some photos of other camp sites that we printed off the internet, this was great to give my kids some ideas on setting up their own campsite.

Let's Play



Every indoor camp site needs a pretend fire and we made ours using a small cane basket filled with red cellophane, paper towel rolls and twigs. My kids placed their camp torch underneath the red cellophane to make it look like red flames were glowing.

Let's Pretend



Cooking on our pretend campfire: I love how Miss 6 is making toast using tongs over the pretend fire. Check out Miss 23 months camping in luxury with her fluffy slippers, haha!

Let's Learn



Whenever we go camping the marshmallows are always on top of our list of things to bring, so we had to have them a part of our indoor camping experience. Adding to the fun of play, we put marshmallows onto the end of some twigs and my girls pretended to cook them over the campfire. We later cooked them on the gas stove – yummo!



Learning benefits of imaginative play – Indoor Camping Trip

- It provides opportunities for children to identify with the adult world. Practise and role play their understanding and interpretation.
- Develop social skills: practising negotiation skills, turn taking and sharing. Provides opportunities for working out problems and experimenting with solutions.
- Emotional development: Understanding and expressing their feelings through the re-enactment of certain experiences. Taking on roles that encourage discipline and empathy.
- Encourages imagination: Children can be anyone and do anything in the pretend world.

- Develop language skills: practising listening, looking and talking. Being spoken to and talking with other people, also developing an understanding of what is being communicated through body language such as smiles and nodding.
- I also believe that imaginative play is a great way for children to escape, relax and unwind from their busy lives.

What would you include in your Indoor Campsite?