

Spirals

Children learn about, draw and form spirals. They make spirals from Plasticine and use these to dip into paint and make patterns.

What you need

Collection of objects that incorporate spirals in their design; Plasticine or other malleable material; shallow trays filled with different coloured ready-mixed paints; piece of thick cardboard or hardboard; glue; pictures of snails; copies of photocopyable page 41 'Spiral shapes' enlarged to A3; paper.

Early painters coil lengths of Plasticine into spirals and print with adult support.

More confident painters print their spiral patterns and draw features to make the spirals into snails.

spirals and then overprint.

- Ask the children to dip their spirals into paint once more and leave these to dry. Use the plasticine spirals to make a 3D design by arranging them closely together on a piece of hardboard or thick cardboard. Stick them into place and display.

Learning objectives

Stepping Stone

- Make constructions, collages, paintings, drawings and dances.

(CD)

Early Learning Goal

- Explore colour, texture, shape, form and space in two or three dimensions.

(CD)

What to do

- Show the children the collection of objects that incorporate spirals in their design. Then, let the children trace the spirals on the photocopyable sheet with their fingers, noticing that a spiral is made from only one line. Ask them to think of a very small animal

that has a spiral on its shell. If possible, go outside on a rainy day to look at real snails, or simply use pictures.

- Tell the children that you want them to make a spiral together. Ask them to join hands in a line and make a circle. Lead them round and round, making a spiral shape. When you are in the middle of the spiral, turn round and 'unwind' the spiral.
- Give the children a piece of Plasticine each and show them how to roll it out into a long 'sausage' shape. Ask them to try and make the 'sausage' into a spiral that they can hold in one hand. Then, ask the children to use their spirals to paint a picture by dipping them into the paint and pressing them onto paper. Encourage the children to fill the paper with coloured

Support and extension

- Provide younger children with the Plasticine already rolled into 'sausage' shapes and help them coil it into spirals.
- Invite older children to turn their spiral prints into snails by drawing the snail's body using oil pastels.

Further activities

- Make 'snail breads' using a bread mix, and let the children make spirals as they did in the main activity. Bake the dough and talk about the changes they notice.
- Find a safe area where snails can be found for the children to observe. Find information about snails using books, CD-ROMs or the internet.

Play link

Cover the photocopyable sheets with tracing paper and ask the children to trace over the spirals with thick pens as a pre-writing activity. (CLL)

Home link

Let the children take their pictures home to prompt talk about their day with their parents and carers.

Cross-curricular links

Stepping Stone

- Manipulate materials to achieve a planned effect. (PD)

Early Learning Goal

- Handle tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control. (PD)