

# Science for 3-5 year-olds

# Young children naturally build knowledge by being curious about the world around them.

When you do science with your children, you can share their sense of wonder about the natural world. They'll develop self confidence when they ask and answer their own questions.

# How to get the most out of your explorations:

- Dress for the mess Science explorations can be messy.
- Take your time

  Play for as long as the activity holds your child's interest.

  Don't rush towards the 'right' answer.
- Be curious

  Ask "What would happen if..." and then find out.

  Let your child's questions guide you.

# **Wax Resist**

Water does not cling to wax or oil.

Water clings to paper and makes the paper wet.

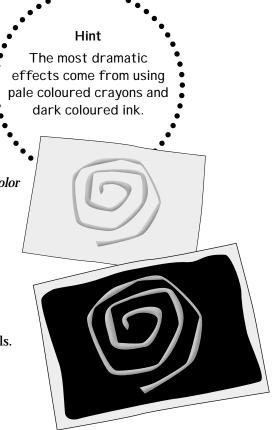
The wax protects the paper and keeps it dry.

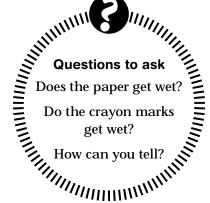
# What you need

- ☐ Crayons or oil pastels (not washable crayons!)
- ☐ Watercolour paint or ink (we like *Sargent Watercolor Magic*, available from Creative Children: www.creativechildreneducational.com)
- ☐ Paint brushes or sponges
- Paper

### Hands on

- 1. Draw on the paper with crayons and/or oil pastels. Press hard!
- 2. When your drawing is done, lightly brush or sponge ink all over the paper.





# What next?

- What happens if you use different kinds of paper?
- Try using only white crayons, then making the invisible drawing appear!
- Try different kinds of drawing media, like coloured pencils or markers. What happens when these get wet?
- Try painting on waxed paper or plastic wrap. Do these surfaces get wet?

# Wet & Dry

# **Soaking Sponges**

A sponge can absorb water. The water clings to the sponge and fills up the holes in the sponge. You can squeeze the sponge to release the water (but you can't squeeze it completely dry!)

# What you need

- ☐ A small sponge
- A clear plastic cup or container

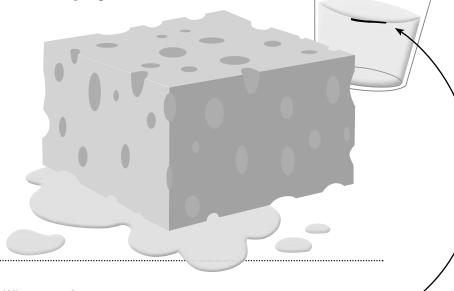
## Hands-on

- 1. Put a little bit of water in the container.
- 2. Put the sponge in the water.





Experiment with sponges and wet fabric in the bathtub, or on laundry day



# What next?

- Mark the original level of the water on the side of the container.
   Once you soak up the water with the sponge, can you get all the water out again?
- Try soaking up water with different kinds of cloth, for example nylon from a jacket, a washcloth, fleece.... Which ones can soak up lots of water?
- Can you squeeze the water out?
- Hold wet cloth in front of a fan or hang it in the sun. What kind of cloth dries quickly? What kind dries slowly?



# **Looking for More?**

# Online:

More science activities for young children can be found at: www.scienceworld.ca/preschool.html

This website has short videos, games and activities for 3-5 year olds: www.peepandthebigwideworld.com

### Our favourite books:

Science Play by Jill Frankel Hauser ISBN 1-885593-20-1

Science Arts by MaryAnn F. Kohl and Jean Potter ISBN 0-935607-04-8