

# STEM starts now

## Texture Tools (man-made vs. nature made)

**Recommended Age:** 25–30 Months

**STEM concepts:** Science (Physical science, life science, earth science), Math (patterns), Technology (simple tools)

**Materials:** construction paper, washable paint, paper plates, variety of clean sponges (i.e. loofahs, cleaning sponges, sea sponges, painting sponges), a variety of brushes (scrubbing brushes, an unused cheap hair brush, comb, paint brush).

**What to do:** Pour the paint on to the paper plates. Have your child feel the brushes and the sponges. After exploring the different brushes and sponges have your child use them to paint one color at a time on to the paper. Explore the different lines or textures they see. Encourage your child to dot the sponges or brushes instead of just pushing them around the paper to change the pattern or texture..

**Language and Communication:** Talk with your child about which sponges are man-made and which are nature made. Explain what that means when something is man-made. Ask your child what the different sponges and brushes feeling like. Ask if they feel the same or different. Talk with your child about the different lines, shapes or textures their brush or sponge is making.

**Expand the Activity:** Use this activity to name colors. As your child paints ask them to identify the color they are using. Use two primary colors at once and talk about how two colors can make a new color. (Red and yellow make orange, blue and yellow make green, red and blue make purple)

