

## Holi Festival of Colour: exploring colours

**Holi marks the arrival of spring and the end of winter.**

Holi is a spring festival celebrated by Hindus in honour of Krishna. The festival originated in India but is widely celebrated around the world.

### Learning aims

- Encourages creativity
- Promotes exploration
- Supports mathematical development through concepts, including patterns
- Fine motor development
- Develops understanding of cultures and traditions.



### Resources

- Paper, paper towels
- Different coloured dye, food colouring, felt pens, wax crayons
- Water
- Range of different utensils such as empty spray bottles, pipettes, medicine syringes, paint brushes,
- Bowls, water tray
- Gloves/protective clothing/aprons.

## Activity Outline

- Have a range of materials available for the children to choose from, this may only be bowls or the water tray for younger children and/or different sized paper/paper towels
- Fill up the different containers and/or bowls with water
- Let the children choose dye or food colouring and add drops to the containers, they could mix colours together too to see what happens, talk about the changes to the water and the colours/patterns
- Enjoy just playing with the water or use the utensils (empty spray bottles, pipettes, medicine syringes and/or paint brushes) to make different pictures, try scrunching the paper up first and add the water to see if it changes the pattern
- Compare the differences between the water and dye on the paper, compared to the paper towel. Use and mix different colours and create patterns. See what happens if you pick up the paper before it has dried, do all the colours run together and make more colours or patterns?
- Compare what happens when you use felt pens/wax crayons and water. You could encourage the children to make marks and then try spraying the paper with water to see what happens

## Extending the activity

- You could add food colouring/dye to cornflour and watch the changes
- Why not try tie dying fabric too, you could try shirts, face masks, sheets of cloth, pillow cases, tote bags, socks (further instructions can be found in our tie dye creations activity).

## Special considerations

- *Be aware of children who may have allergies or sensitivities to dye or the potential odour it could produce*
- *Use gloves and aprons as necessary and ensure the area chosen for the activity is well ventilated.*