

Wet Chalk

Unlike crayons, chalk has the unique property of creating drag on a surface, letting children “feel” what they draw. Chalk has a different texture when it is wet and makes thicker and softer looking lines. It is also interesting for children to experiment drawing with chalk on different surfaces. In the Wonder Cabinet they can explore drawing on paper or slate.

In The Wonder Cabinet:

The Wonder Cabinet is providing a different way to think about chalk. When chalk is dipped into water, it has a different texture than when it is dry and makes thicker and softer lines. Children can experiment with blending different colors and creating new lines and design and even blurring the lines by using a paint or scrub brush.

Children can then explore the difference between drawing with chalk on paper versus the slate. Each texture is different and the slate offers the option to erase and begin again.

The emphasis is on using the materials, and not necessarily creating a shape or design recognizable to others. Children are encouraged to talk about the colors and lines that are created by their experimentation.

At Home:

You can extend your child’s exploration with water and chalk at home with a slightly different process. Instead of using wet chalk on a dry surface, you can reverse the idea by wetting the surface to be drawn on. You can let your child use dry chalk to draw on wet construction paper. Dark colored construction paper works best, as does large sidewalk chalk that is easy for a young child to grip. Another idea is to wet an area of sidewalk and then let your child drag chalk through the puddle to draw.

Suggested materials:

- sidewalk chalk
- jar lid, small bucket, or other container to hold water
- dark colored construction paper
- sponges
- large paint brushes