

Measure, Mix, and Test

slur·ry - a semi-liquid mixture.

With the weather warming up, it's the perfect time to reintroduce water to outdoor play! Incorporate measurement and the scientific method into ramp play by inviting children to create the perfect slurry mixture.

Materials:

- Outdoor Ramps
- Water
- Mud
- Sand
- Shovels
- Buckets
- Measuring cups
- Scoops, spoons, and whisks

Invite children to create the perfect slurry mixture to travel down outdoor ramps. Encourage children to create different mixtures with the various materials. Offer vocabulary words to describe the viscosity of the mixture (liquid, solid, thin, thick, flow, ect.). Encourage children to communicate their recipe by using units of measurement (2 cups water, 1 shovel sand, 2 scoops mud).

Look and Listen for Learning

- Material Properties
- Measurement
- Observation
- Vocabulary

Teaching Tips

- If ramps aren't available, use other inclined planes in your outdoor space. A plastic lid elevated at one side or a slide.
- Offer clipboards and writing utensils for the children to record their slurry recipe if they are interested.
- Encourage children to add other natural materials to see how they change the viscosity of the slurry.

Questions to pose:

- I wonder how you could make that mixture thinner/thicker?
- What happens to the mixture if you add more _____?
- How would you describe the flow of this mixture?
- How does the angle of the ramp change how the mixture flows?