



Soap is used everyday to clean different things. It is used to wash our bodies, dishes, countertops, clothes and so much more. You can even use soap to create soap-based crayons! Soap has been around for centuries and is made by mixing oils or fats and alkali (sodium) and fragrances. Soap comes in different forms such as a solid or a liquid.

To make bath crayons you will use a tool called a cheese grater to shave down a bar of soap. Touch the soap shavings, how do they feel? Mix in food coloring and mold the soap shavings into the shape of a crayon or pencil. Shaving soap is a great sensory play experience for young children as they try to touch it, squish it and mix it with water.

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Visual Activity Guide: Bath Time Crayons



FIRST, gather materials: white soap bar, cheese grater, food coloring, measuring spoons, a spoon, bowl, warm water and a cookie cutter (optional).

THEN, grab the soap bar and cheese grater. Start moving it up and down against the cheese grater.

NEXT, gather 4 tablespoons of soap shavings into a bowl.

THEN, add a tablespoon of water into the bowl.

NEXT, add 7-8 drops of your favorite food color into the bowl.

*Make sure not to add too much color!

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THEN, mix all of the ingredients together using a spoon or your hands!



NEXT, using your hands or a cookie cutter, mold your crayon into any shape that you would like.



LASTLY, allow your masterpiece to dry and then draw!



Visual Activity Guide: Bath Time Crayons

Visual Activity Guides

As part of our Autism Access Initiative, NYSCI offers invaluable opportunities for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to build a solid foundation of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) thinking skills. We are committed to encouraging children with ASD and their families to explore their science process skills, early mathematical thinking, designing and making through hands-on exposure to new materials, tools and experiences.

Many children are strong visual learners and visual thinkers, especially children with autism. Given this strength, NYSCI has created Visual Activity Guides, visual step-by-step instructions to help engage children in STEAM activities when verbal communication and instructions are difficult. Visual Activity Guides encourage the whole family to participate in playful hands-on activities while promoting a positive learning experience that is clear and engaging.

Use these Visual Activity Guides in a way that best makes sense for your child: printed on paper or displayed on a screen. Your child should be able to see the guide before beginning the activity and the guide should continue to be visible throughout. At first, you may need to physically guide your child (for example, gently guide your child by the shoulder and prompt them to point to each step). Try doing the activity more than once and gradually decrease physical prompts as your child begins to use the visual activity guide more independently.

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