Number Rubbings

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Cognitive

What You Need:

- Cardboard
- Pencil
- White glue (such as Elmer’s Glue®**)
- Sand (optional)
- Paper
- Jumbo crayons

** Use of brand names is for informational purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the Learning to Grow Project.

What To Do:

1. On a piece of cardboard, write a number with a pencil; make it at least three inches tall.
2. Show your child how to squeeze out a little bit of glue along the penciled line of the number.
3. Have your child sprinkle some sand (if available) over the glue.
4. Let the glue dry.
5. When the glue has dried, have your child gently shake off the excess sand. Ask him why some of the sand remains on the paper.
6. Show him how to place a blank sheet of paper over the dried number rubbing and gently rub it with a crayon. Then, let him do it himself.
7. Talk about what happens: “Look, the number 5 is appearing on your paper!”
8. Ask him to trace the glue or sand number rubbing with his finger and ask him how it feels. “Does the glue or sand feel rough or smooth?” Then have him do the
same with the crayon rubbings he made and ask him if it feels the same or different as the glue or sand number rubbings.

9. Create a number rubbing of your child’s age. Ask, “How old are you? Right, you’re three years old. How old will you be on your next birthday?”

10. If your child can identify several numbers, make additional number rubbings. Then, have him close his eyes, trace a number rubbing with his finger, and guess what number it is.

VARIATION:
Make the same type of glue and sand rubbings with letters of the alphabet.