

Skin Tone Paint Mixing

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Mixing paint to match our skin tone is a powerful activity that helps children embrace their identities (ABE Goal 1) and notice and celebrate similarities and differences (ABE Goal 2).

One of the important things this learning exercise illustrates to children is that we all have our own unique skin color. None of us are the peach nor brown crayon and it takes a lot of looking, reflecting, and mixing to create our own color.

ABE Goal #1 Children will demonstrate self-awareness, confidence, family pride, and positive social identities.

ABE Goal #2 Children will express comfort and joy with human diversity, use accurate language for human differences, and form deep, caring connections across all dimensions of human diversity.

The first thing we do is sort through paint chips looking at all the different colors to see which one is the closest match.





It is helpful to observe a friend and notice if their paint chip is different from yours.

There are lots of
different paint chips
to choose from.

It's good to try your
friend's paint chip.



What does it feel like
to find a color that
matches your own?

What does it feel like
to have some
misses?





Next we take out the paints and start to mix. Sometimes we use packaged skin tone paints and other times we use basic colors such as green, red, orange, blue and yellow.



We invite the children to put some on their hand or cheek to see if they have a match.



Then we add more or different colors and keep on checking until we get closer.

We invite the children to notice their friend's color. Is it the same or different?





When your friend has a different color than yours, you can swipe some of their paint on your skin just to see!

We encourage children to share the colors that went into their cup and how that might be different from their friends.

It takes a lot of work to find your color.

We notice and celebrate when we get a match!





Can you see the differences?

Sometimes the differences are subtle, but every finished color is beautiful and unique to each child.