Homemade Rainbows

While it's raining, sprinkle a few drops of food coloring onto a paper plate. Have your child take it outside and watch the rain make watercolors!

Encourage your child to swirl the liquid around to make designs. Bring the plate inside to dry, or press another piece of paper on top and peel it off to make a print.

**What you will need:**
- Sidewalk chalk
- Paved driveway, sidewalk, bricks, or stepping stones
- Paper plate
- Food coloring
- Sheet of paper

1. **Rainbows with chalk.**
   After a rainstorm have your child use sidewalk chalk on wet pavement. Point out how moisture intensifies and blurs the colors. The effect is very different from coloring with chalk on dry land!

   As the colors blur, ask your child to describe what they see as the colors mix (“What happens when yellow and blue blend?”).

2. **Rainbows with food coloring.**
   While it’s raining, sprinkle a few drops of food coloring onto a paper plate. Have your child take it outside and watch the rain make watercolors!

   Encourage your child to swirl the liquid around to make designs. Bring the plate inside to dry, or press another piece of paper on top and peel it off to make a print.