

BECOME A FINGERPRINT DETECTIVE BY
HAVING A GO AT A FEW OF THESE
ACTIVITIES.

Can you work out what type
of fingerprints you and your
family have.

Who leaves the most prints
around?.....

Who needs to wash their
hands more often?....



Arch (A)



Loop (L)



Whorl (W)



Fingerprint
Science for Kids



Fingerprints for Kids

I always remember thinking the idea of fingerprints was really interesting. If you grew up in the 1970's or 1980's, you might recall the super cool [Ed Emberley Fingerprint Fun books](#) where you could make animals using your fingerprints.

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 **MEDIAVINE**

Fingerprint science is popular with kids who love spy & detective activities .

Our first step was to get a close-up look at our fingerprints.

Now most parents will tell you all you need to do is give a kids some chocolate and you'll find a messy set of prints all over the walls ;)

Or there's always the good old fashion [FingerPrint Pad](#) ink kits too.

But I thought we'd try a less messy approach :)



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 **MEDIAVINE**

We used some [Crayola Model Magic Clay](#) and had each member of the family press one of their fingers into it to create a fingerprint.

Playdough didn't work so well for us so I would suggest something more firm. If you want to preserve the fingerprints, I would use a good [oven bake clay](#) so they are more permanent.

Once we had our prints, we grabbed our much-loved [Kids Magnifying Glass](#)-- seriously, you need to have one of these around the house for the kids to use -- AMAZING science tool that is super cheap!

As we looked at the prints, we noticed a few really cool things!

Fingerprint Science Observations

There were a few things we noticed right away after taking a close look at the fingerprints we gathered:

- Not all of our fingerprints looked the same even though we are all related.
- Some of our prints have a swirl pattern to them while others looked like 'mountains'.
- There were a different number of lines in each of our fingerprints -- sometimes the lines are really close together and sometimes they are farther apart.



Even though the clay was pretty cool, we wanted a more detailed view of our prints.

So we pulled out the [baby powder](#) and put some on our fingers. (If you don't have any powder in the house, try flour or powdered sugar instead).



Then we placed a piece of [Clear Packaging Tape](#) over the powdered finger and *Voila!* instant fingerprint!

I know - pretty awesome isn't it?!

Hold the tape up to the light and you can really see all the lines and ridges plus a very clear view of the fingerprint pattern.

We also taped our prints to [black construction paper](#) so we could view them again later.

Dusting for Fingerprints

But we still wanted to answer one more question -- where can we find fingerprints?

So we talked about places around the house that people were most likely to touch -- doorknobs, the handle on the fridge, glasses, etc.



Then we grabbed our baby powder and got to work.

We used a Makeup Brush to lightly tap baby powder onto the handles of the fridge. Be sure not to brush it on hard or you can brush away the prints - they're delicate little suckers.



We used the clear packing tape to cover the powdered areas and then placed the tape onto a [dark blue construction paper](#) so we could see if there were any prints.

We could easily tell that some of the prints belonged to Mom or Dad just due to their size.