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Introduction

This book contains art activities appropriate for young children with short attention spans and limited manual dexterity that can be done at home, at preschool or in a day-care setting. Although the activities are specifically designed for three- and four-year-olds, older children, aged five to twelve, will enjoy them as well. Directions are for painting, printing, weaving, stitchery, mobiles, sculpture, scissor-art, mosaics, collages, puppets, crayon and chalk. The final chapter is devoted to holiday art.

Most of the art supplies for the projects in this book can be purchased from grocery stores and chemists, although some, like powdered tempera paint, may require a trip to an art, hobby or school supply outlet. In addition, odds and ends from home are called for, like string, buttons, straws, sponges, dried beans, bottle caps, tissue paper and sandpaper.

This book is written for the parents and teachers of young children. They are the ones who will assemble supplies, interpret instructions, supervise the art work and oversee clean-up. Adults are required to act as coworkers in completing some of the activities which involve tasks too difficult for young children, like cutting cardboard. In such cases, special directions for adults are given. Since children differ in their rate of maturation and skill development, some will work independently while others will need assistance. Adults should help in any phase of a project that a child finds difficult or frustrating.

Each chapter opens with general instructions about the art projects in the chapter. For example, the introduction to Chapter One, *Let's Paint*, explains the kinds of paints, paintbrushes and paper to use with young children. The introduction to Chapter Two, *How to Make Prints*, defines printing terminology, suggests homemade substitutes for commercial printing inks, stamp pads and rollers, and gives suggestions for making clear, well-defined prints. Since all chapter introductions offer useful advice like this, be sure to read them.

The purpose of this book is to help young children explore colour, shape and texture and to give them an opportunity to experiment with a wide range of art media. Ways to use art materials are suggested, but creative decisions of what to make are left, in most cases, to the child. Often a child's pleasure is in the doing, not in the end product. The role of parents and teachers is to provide opportunity, encouragement and praise, and, of course, to display the child's artwork in a prominent place for everyone to admire.

BASIC ART SUPPLIES

The basic art supplies required to make the projects in this book are paper, paint, ink, crayons, chalk, felt-tipped pens, glue, decorative materials and miscellaneous items like rulers, scissors and tape. Within each of these categories you will find a variety of products and manufacturers. Generic supplies are listed here. Perhaps you lack a specific item required for one of the activities in the book and wonder what you might substitute. Perhaps you want to modify or embellish a project and need help with supply options. Though the following supply lists are not all-inclusive, they should help you to use this book.

Fingerpainting

SUPPLIES

- commercial fingerpaints or homemade recipes (listed below)
- fingerpaint paper (or paper with a glossy surface, such as shelf paper)
- newspaper

CHILD: Place a sheet of fingerpaint paper on a padding of newspaper. Spread fingerpaint over the entire surface of the fingerpaint paper. Use your fingers and hands to make a pleasing design in the paint.



VARIATIONS

- Make a fingerpainting. Scrape a design in the wet fingerpaint with a comb, old hair roller, bottle cap, stick, fork or some other object.
- Make notches on the sides of a 5-cm square of cardboard. While fingerpainting, alternate finger strokes with scratches made by the notched cardboard.
- Add texture by sprinkling sand or salt over a wet fingerpainting.
- Use non-mentholated shaving cream for fingerpaint and paint directly on a laminex tabletop. Sprinkle powdered tempera paint into the foam to add colour. This will not be a permanent painting but will be washed away during clean-up.
- After making a fingerpainting, place a second sheet of fingerpaint paper over the wet surface of the painting. Press the two papers together. Peel off the top paper. A monoprint of the original fingerpainting will result.
- Fold a piece of fingerpaint paper in half. Open. Spread fingerpaint over the entire surface of the paper. Refold the paper so that the paint-covered halves touch one another. With a pencil eraser, make a design on the top surface of the folded paper. Open the folded paper. The pressed design and its mirror image will appear on the two halves of the paper.
- Make a crayon drawing on a piece of fingerpaint paper. Fingerpaint over the crayon drawing.

Fingerpaint Recipes

RECIPE 1: Thicken tempera paint with liquid starch, flour or paste.

RECIPE 2: ½ cup cornflour, 1 litre of water, powdered tempera paint.

Slowly add the cornflour to the water while stirring. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. Bring the mixture to a boil. Boil two minutes. Cool. Sprinkle powdered tempera paint into the cornflour mixture to give the fingerpaint colour.

RECIPE 3: 1 ½ cups cornflour, ¼ cup talcum powder, 1 litre water, 1 ½ cups soap flakes, a few drops of oil of cloves, 4 teaspoons alum.

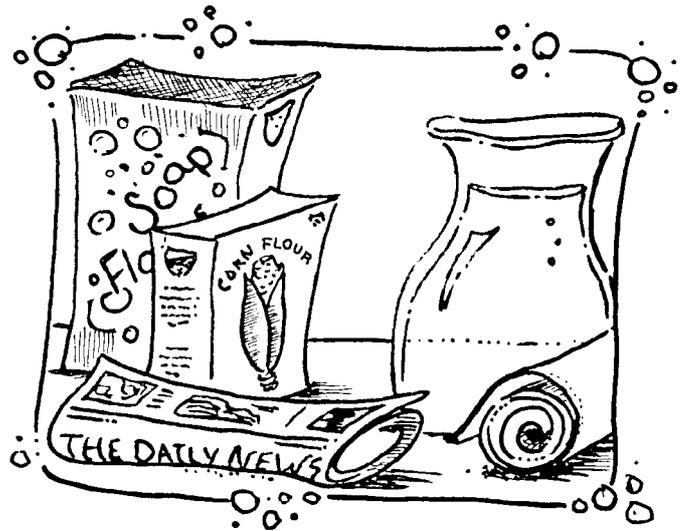
Bring the water to a boil. Add the cornflour and talcum powder. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture becomes glossy. Cool. Add the soap flakes and oil of cloves. This mixture will keep for several weeks when stored in an airtight container.

Dry Paint Painting

SUPPLIES

- powdered tempera paint
- sheet of all-purpose paper
- newspaper
- large flat baking pan

CHILD: Pour water into the baking pan. Immerse a sheet of all-purpose paper in the water. Place the wet paper flat on a padding of newspaper. Smooth the paper with your hand to remove any water puddles. Make a painting by sprinkling the wet paper with several colours of the powdered tempera paint. When the painting is dry, shake the paper gently to remove any loose paint.



Starch Painting

SUPPLIES

- liquid starch
- paintbrush
- sheet of paper
- powdered tempera paint

CHILD: Paint a design on paper with liquid starch. Sprinkle powdered tempera paint over the paper. The paint will stick to the starch-painted areas. When the painting is dry, gently shake the paper to remove any loose paint.

Crayon Encaustic

SUPPLIES

- old crayon stubs
- muffin tin
- stiff bristle brush
- sheet of paper
- large flat pan
- hot water



CHILD: Drop crayon stubs into the cups of a muffin tin. Use one cup for reds, one for blues etc.

ADULT: Place the muffin tin into a medium oven until the crayons are melted. To keep the wax from cooling and hardening during the painting session, put the muffin tin with the melted crayons into a large flat pan, then add couple of centimetres of hot water to the pan. Caution children not to touch the hot muffin tin while painting and to avoid hot wax drips.

CHILD: Use a stiff brush to paint a design with the melted crayons.

tips & hints

Remind children to paint swiftly, for the melted crayons will cool and harden quickly.

Glue Painting

SUPPLIES

- glue
- powdered tempera paint
- bristle brush
- water
- dish
- muffin tin
- paper
- jar

CHILD: Pour a small amount of glue into a dish and thin it with water. Place small amounts of dry powdered tempera paint into a muffin tin, one colour per cup. Dip a bristle brush into the thinned glue and then into a colour of dry paint. Start painting a picture. Clean the brush with water each time you decide to change colour.

Masking Tape Painting

SUPPLIES

- sheet of heavy-duty white paper
- masking tape
- tempera paint
- paint containers
- paintbrushes

CHILD: Make a design with masking tape on heavy paper. Paint a design on the paper. Cover the masking tape as well as the plain areas of the paper with colour. When the painting is dry, remove the masking tape. The original masking tape design will reappear in white surrounded by colour.



VARIATION

- Place masking tape strips on a piece of cloth, such as a piece of old sheeting. Paint the cloth spaces between the tape strips with cold water dye. Dry. Remove the tape. A stencil-like design will result.

Rubber Cement Painting

SUPPLIES

- sheet of all-purpose paper
- rubber cement
- tempera paint
- paint containers
- paintbrushes

CHILD: Make a design with rubber cement on a piece of all-purpose white paper. When the rubber cement is dry, paint a design on the paper. Cover the rubber cement as well as the plain areas of the paper with colour. When the paint is dry, use your finger to rub off the rubber cement. The original rubber cement design will appear in white surrounded by colour.