



# BIG AND LITTLE ART TOGETHER

## AT-HOME EDITION

Created by Janet Scudder for The Umbrella  
*Questions, Comments, Suggestions for Future Projects?*  
Contact us: [Education@TheUmbrellaArts.org](mailto:Education@TheUmbrellaArts.org)



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# ART TOGETHER

Each week we'll share three activities from our "Big and Little Art" Classes. Using materials you can make or find at home.

Big and Little, we are all artists.

Toddlers to adults, everyone learns best by exploring and anybody who spends time with under-three humans knows they want to do what they see us do, so roll up your sleeves, lay down a drop cloth have some fun.

Only hard-and-fast rules: Everybody makes something and nobody eats paint!

## **Week Two: SHAPES**

**Brush Painting Plus, Absolute Luxury  
PlayDough and Paper Bag Theatre**



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# 1

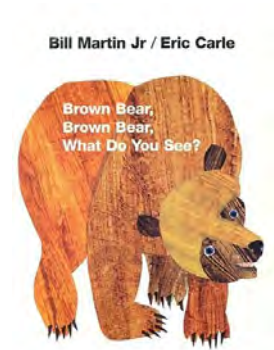
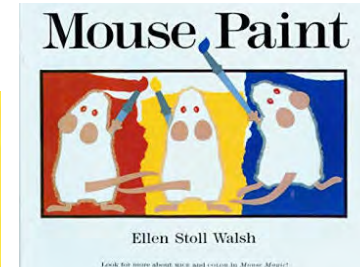
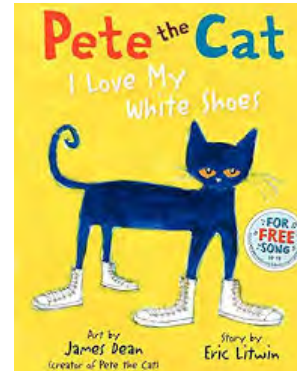
# BRUSH PAINTING TOGETHER



## Brush Painting Together. Again!

Set up in the same place you did before, if possible.

As always every painter, big and little, gets their own paints and brush and paints on their own paper....or alternate surface.



Stories for inspiration:

**Mouse Paint** by Ellen Walsh

**Little Blue and Little Yellow** by Leo Lionni

**Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes** by Eric Litwin

**Brown Bear Brown Bear What do You See** by Eric Carle



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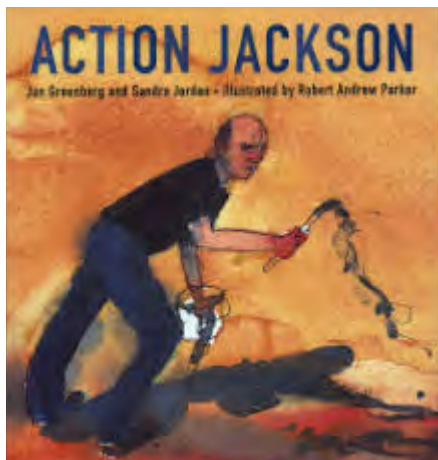
# 1

## MATERIALS AND SET-UP

With luck your paints from last week will still be usable. If they got muddied by your junior partner's experiments last week but you don't want to waste, you can perk them up with a little white for instant pastels and set up some more primary ( **R**, **B**, **Y** ) to use alongside, just try, for now, to keep the consistency roughly the same.

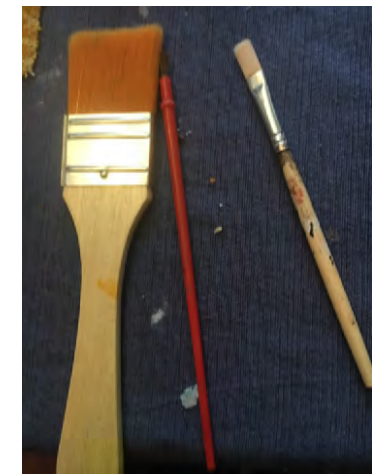
**Setting up the same way you did before is A.O.K. great. The opportunity to repeat skills in a consistent environment builds confidence and mastery.**

**Handy tip:** If slippage or Jackson Pollock (more about him later) style heavy paint application is a problem try laying papers on a cookie sheet.



**Action Jackson** by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan

Cool book for older kids. Just be aware when introducing concepts like splatter and thrown paint to young painters that you are going to need a MUCH bigger drop cloth.



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## 2

## PAINTING METHODS

Try adding in different exploration opportunities to Brush Painting Time this week or over coming weeks. Keep it simple...one novelty at a time: Two sizes of brushes available, Some large and some small papers cut into shapes.



### NOTE FROM THE ART TEACHER

Very young painters may ignore these changes/options. That's normal, don't be hurt. It's called kinesthetic staging, ie: they are more interested in the action of application than the resulting surface. (I told you Jackson Pollock was going to show up again.) Becoming aware of the paper's edge and making marks that use or accommodate it to is a verifiable developmental milestone. Model but don't worry. It will come.



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# 3

## DOUGH RECIPE OF THE WEEK



### Conditioner Dough

So Easy, So Strange.

One Part Hair Conditioner  
Two Parts Corn Starch  
a few drops of Food Coloring

Mix together well.

Variations in the thickness of conditioner brands may require a pinch more or less cornstarch.

**DO NOT ADD WATER.**

Smooth, good for your cuticles and makes everyone smell like a Newbury Street salon.

Can be stored in a ziplock bag for a few days but keep in the fridge.



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# 4 PAPER BAG PUPPETS & OTHER CLASSICS OF THE THEATRE

## Materials

### Paper Bag

### Glue

(in a low jar or cup along with a brush, stick or swab for application. If using "Washable glue" add a sprinkle of flour to thicken and make it stickier)

### Scissors

(NOTE: Giggly eyes are very popular if you have them, but being plastic require lots of good glue to hold and can be a choking hazard...just keep an "eye" out.)



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## Pre-Cut pieces of colored paper

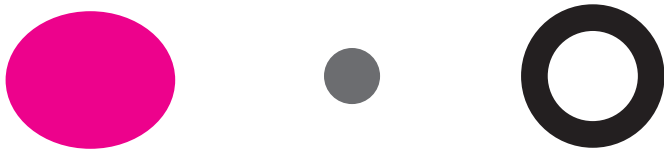
Big Ovals/Circles/Squares for Faces, Tummies, Shirts, and Mouths



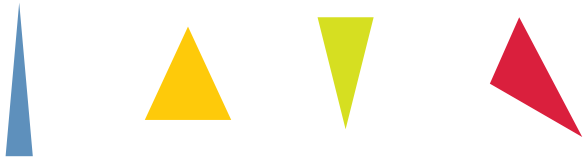
Strips for Hair, Arms, Legs, Antennae, Noses, Ears, and Eyebrows



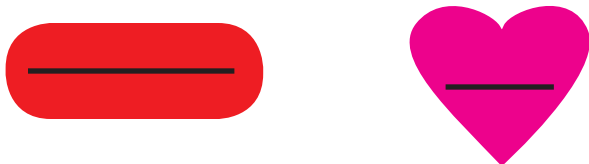
Smaller circles for Noses, Cheeks, Eyeballs, and Belly Buttons. Cut-out black dots on white paper are nice



Triangles for Teeth, Noses, and Cat Ears



Folded ovals or Hearts to glue under the flap for "talk-able/eat-able" mouths



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Handy Tip: Let especially “gluey” puppets dry propped up over a bottle or something so they don’t dry stuck together.

Park up behind a table or in front of a mirror and let the play begin!

Film on your phone and have a festival.



**MORE NEXT WEEK!**



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# A NOTE ABOUT USING PRE-CUT PAPER VS. INTRODUCING SCISSORS

For beginning collage artists whether you use pre-cut shapes (magazine pictures, colorful paper, stickers, etc) or provide scissors and cut as you go along depends on your goal. Are about the joy of cutting today or the joy of assembly? Papercutting is its own challenge so if you are working on shapes for a project pre-cutting adaptable shapes can help minimize frustration and maximize choices.



Collage (aka: "Gluing and Pasting") is about choices of shapes and colors. Sorting out large and small shapes in advance, and making piles of "Eye" shapes and "Ear" shapes etc. can help too.



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# SCISSOR NOTES: FOR THE SCISSOR-READY

- The best least-frustrating scissors for children are small, smooth with a rounded point and sharp enough to actually cut, have a comfortable grip/big enough holes and a nice tight bolt. Loose, flimsy or dull scissors are exhausting.
- Small papers are much easier to cut and shape effectively than large.
- “Training” scissors like the elusive “lefty” scissors can be a godsend for children with specific motor needs but good quality standard scissors work for most.
- Test scissors by trying them yourselves first. If you can’t make them with them your three-year-old can’t.
- No running. Points down. Paper only....for now.
- (Tip: Lame plastic scissors have their place though. Use to “practice” with play-dough)



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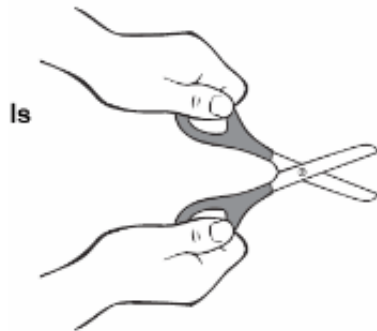
## SCISSORS: Important Fine Motor and Mechanical Skill-building Tool Necessary to Children's Development of 2 and 3 Dimensional Mental Modeling in or Invitation to Mayhem? - From my upcoming lecture series

Scissors are the BEST. They are also a peculiar challenge for the learn-by-watching crowd . You've seen kids try to cut with scissors holding one blade in each hand and snapping them together. Odd? Not so. Put yourself in their place: Beloved Adult opens and closes a hinged device ...Magic!... two pieces of paper fall apart! The open-close-open-close...looks like the whole thing. Mimic that and it MUST work, right? Poor logical lambs. There is an "invisible" part vital to successful cutting: pressing the scissor blades against each other as you cut. This lateral motion takes both motor skill and strength...like the kind that makes your hand ache after cutting out 30 paper hearts with "safety" scissors. Good blades and a tight bolt make this so easy it's unnoticeable, thus the difference between the "good scissors" you keep in the drawer and sewing basket those awful pressed metal "Safety" scissors they gave us in 1950's kindergarten.

It's one of those things you can only understand by doing so get decent scissors and practice. Save all scraps for future projects and stay away from your sister's hair.



Remember these? So many tears!



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