



BIG AND LITTLE ART

AT-HOME EDITION

Created by Janet Scudder for The Umbrella
Questions, Comments, Suggestions for Future Projects?
Contact us: 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 One: Brush Painting & "Classic" PlayDough and Shaving Cream Madness.



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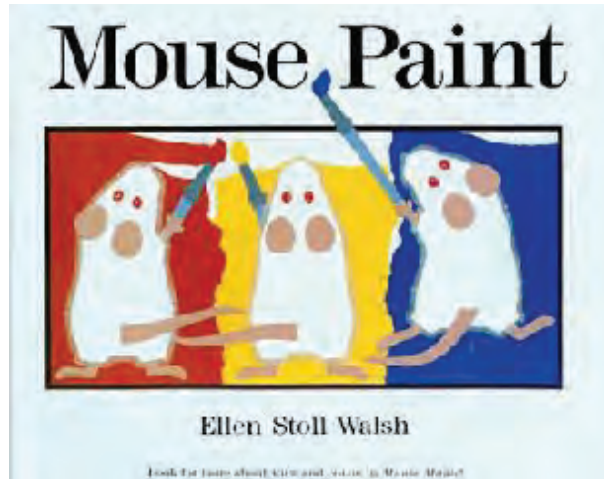
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BRUSH PAINTING TOGETHER



Today we're **Brush Painting Together**.

Any flat work surface where you can all work side by side can be your Painting Together space... Kitchen tables or counter tops, or folding tables. Set up in the same place every time.

(If you're musical feel free to make up an "Art-time" song to go along with the unrolling of the drop cloths.)

Every painter, big and little, gets their own paints and brush and paints on their own paper.

Read a story for inspiration. Good ones:

Mouse Paint by Ellen Walsh

Little Blue and Little Yellow by Leo Lionni



Have an **Family Art Show** when you're done!



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MATERIALS

There's always Amazon, but first review what you have in your house.

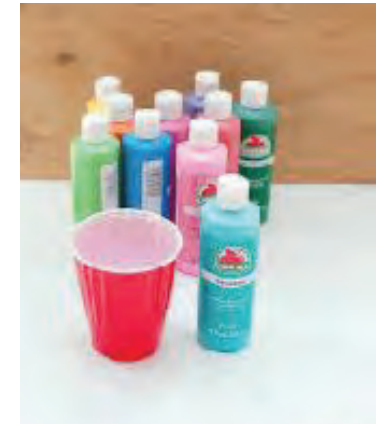
Kinds of Paint

Tempera, "aka" Poster Paint - What schools usually use. Water-based, sticks to paper, uncoated cardboard and bare wood. Can be "revived" with water. If it's old and smells really funky dump it. Also comes in powdered or cake form which stores better but you'll need to pre-mix or water down.

Acrylic - Comes in bottles or tubes. Most paint in "craft" kits is acrylic. Can't be revived if dry. Washable when wet but NOT when dry. Not recommended for very little guys because of this but may be just fine for older kids who appreciate the brighter color and responsiveness. If Acrylic is all you have, add a few drops of water and a little liquid dish soap to make it easier to use and much easier to clean up.

Watercolors - Using cake watercolors are cool for other projects but hard for "Brush Painting" time. Repeatedly having to water to the dry colors to make them work is one step too much for most under-3's.

Paper - Sturdy and large is good but printer paper or recycle will do in a pinch.



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PAINT SET-UP

Lining Paints up on a flat tray or plastic plate/box lid/ takeout container will contain spills.

All the colors in the world can be made with **RED**, **BLUE** and **YELLOW**. (**WHITE** and **BLACK** will change colors into tones and shades.)

Brushes - Short handles are best for small hands, also extreme sturdiness...not much else matters. Those 1/2 -1/4 inch cheap-bristle brushes for painting trim are great.

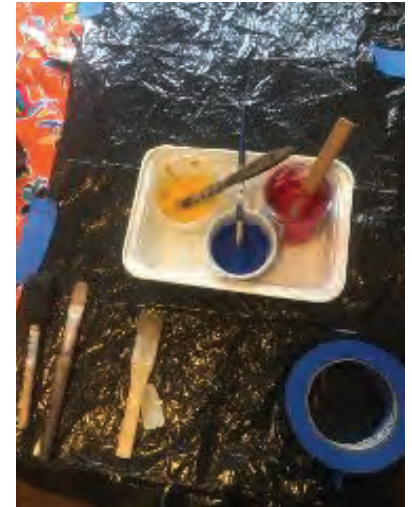
One brush for each color cup works well for little painters.

(Adults and older kids may want washing water and a blotting sponge so they can mix their own special colors on the tray, toddlers are usually happy to mix on the paper.)

Paint Cups - Anything low and sturdy that won't tip over with a brush propped in it.

Small yogurt cups are fine. Empty tuna or cat food cans are especially good.

*Handwashing. Some little people NEED to wash hands... a lot. Wipes, damp washrags or small dishpan of soapy water and towel standing by can save trips to the sink.



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NOTE FROM AN ART TEACHER

If you are Painting Together with children older than 2.5-3 now or buying materials with an eye to future use, please consider the following:

A word about “Washable” - In the last few years it has become almost impossible to get any children’s art supplies that are not labelled “WASHABLE.”

Art supplies (glue, paint, crayons, markers, etc) labelled “washable” have large quantities of gelatin and soap mixed with them and use considerably less and poorer quality of pigment.

You care about washability...of course you do, you have children....and a house.

But, things to know when better days come: “Washable” paints often do not mix true (ie: blue and yellow may only make olive, not green). They take longer to dry and dry muddy or transparent. Washable crayons have poorer color and break more easily. Washable markers smear more easily.

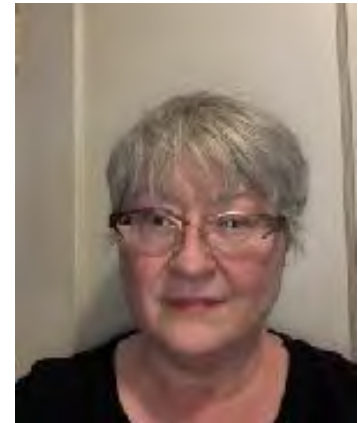
This will not matter to a very young toddler who cares about “process” waaaaay more than product but it does matter developmentally as children get older and start connecting movements with the marks produced and take interest and pride in their own work. Once that happens they will learn more and gain greater satisfaction from materials that have truer color and better responsiveness.

Meantime, don’t worry. We are all stuck at home. Use what you have.

(“Washable glue” is an oxymoron. It is just bad glue and SUPER frustrating for young artists. Mix a little white flour with it so it will work better in the meantime and buy yourself and your kids some real all-purpose white glue or real glue sticks asap.)

Thank you for coming to my TED talk.

Janet Scudder



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DOUGH RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Classic Cooked Play Dough

Combine 1 cup flour, and 2 teaspoons cream of tartar* in a large saucepan. Gradually stir in 1 cup water mixed 1/2 cup of salt, 2 teaspoons oil and 1 teaspoon food coloring.** Cook over medium to high heat, stirring constantly until a ball forms. Remove from heat, cool and knead until smooth. Keep in an air-tight container.

* essential. (If you don't have this make Salt Dough this week and pick C of T up on your next grocery run. It will be with the spices. *SALT DOUGH - Mix 1/2 C. table salt, 1/2 C. hot water and food color. Add 1 C. flour, mix, then turn out to knead.*

** Any kind of food coloring. More = brighter.

**+ Kool-Aid (no sugar added) which has a large amount of food coloring and smells fruity. Be aware that making play dough smell like food CAN be a problem. You know your child best.



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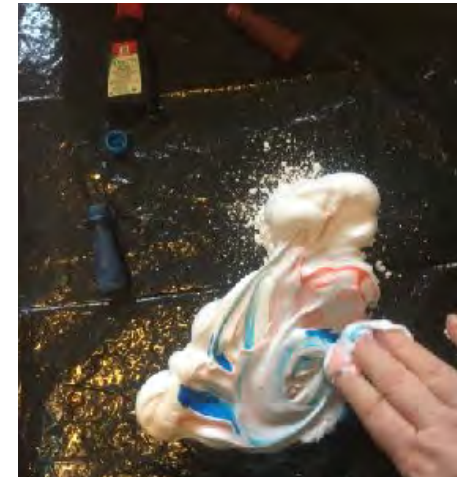
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3 SHAVING CREAM - MESSY TIMES THAT ACTUALLY MAKE YOU CLEAN



Materials

Shaving Cream (not gel...the real old-time stuff. Brand doesn't matter. Cheaper is generally better.)

Food coloring

(extra: spoon or sticks for stirring for those shy about using their hands)

For this daring mess, lay down a cut garbage bag and tape it down as a drop/cloth work surface. For clean-up, just pull up the corners and drop the whole thing in the trash.

A dish pan of water and a towel standing by is good for "pre-rinsing" before soapy people dashing through the house to the sink.

Just keep telling yourself, "It's just soap".



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