

Ideas for Painting.

Painting can be messy but is worth while giving a try from time to time!

Be prepared and cover work surfaces and children.

Both powdered paints you mix yourself with water and ready mixed paints in squeeze bottles are available and either work well. Powdered paint can be made thick and is good for finger painting when you need a less runny paint. Hint - try mixing just a small amount of washing up liquid with the powder and water - it makes washing up easier! A small squirt of glue also makes the finished painting less likely to flake and crack. Ready mixed paint is quicker and probably less wasteful as you just put out the amount you need.

Ideas:-

Try different sizes of paper and different types and textures of paper.

Take painting outside in to the garden. Also try painting outside with just water and large brushes on walls and paving slabs.

Try painting with different implements - brushes of different sizes, sponges, sticks, feathers and so on.



Try printing. Vegetables and potatoes, just cut in half or carved into shapes, are popular as are sponges, hands and fingers. For older children make blocks by sticking string shapes or pasta patterns to card before dipping in paint and using as printing blocks.

Experiment with colour mixing. Give the children just 2 or 3 colours of paint. Can they mix any others? Try adding white paint to give different shades of a particular colour and create a picture using just the one colour.

If you are feeling very brave colour mixing on the table top is fantastic fun! Put just one blob of each of two colours, (two of the primary colours, red, yellow and blue, obviously work best) beside each other on a large sheet of plastic spread on the table or in a shallow tray. Allow the child to mix the two colours together using their hands. What colour do they get? If you like you can 'draw' a picture in the paint using fingers or a stick and take a print by pressing a piece of paper over the picture.

Marble trails are fun - cut paper to fit into the base of a shallow tray or tin. Then drop marbles onto paint before spooning out into the tray and tipping and tilting to make patterns and trails as the marble rolls around the tray.

Bubble painting - make sure children can blow through a straw before trying this - make thin paint and mix in washing up liquid. Place in containers such as yoghurt pots or margarine tubs and use a straw to blow bubbles in the paint. When you have a heap of bubbles overflowing the tub, gently place a piece of paper over the top. The bubbles burst and leave a print on the paper.

Butterfly painting - Fold a piece of paper in half. Open out and blob paint on one half only. Fold over again and smooth the folded paper together. Unfold and admire the results. This looks effective on butterfly shaped paper.

String painting - similar to butterfly painting. Fold paper in half and then unfold again. Dip a length of string into paint and lay it out on one side of the paper. Fold the paper over and whilst gently holding the paper folded with one hand, pull the string out with the other. Unfold to reveal a sort of dragged, symmetrical trail. With older children, can they either draw or stick on collage bits and bobs to make a picture from the patterns once they are dry?

