

PROGRAMMING IDEAS

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2008

PRINTING

Children of all ages love to paint. As with most children's crafts, painting is more about doing and creating than it is about the finished art work.

Print painting is a great way to teach children how to think and use things they wouldn't normally use to print with. They can use objects from the environment, from the kitchen, from the toy box, from recyclables such as boxes, plastic containers, lids instead of using brushes. They can print on different surfaces like boxes, paper plates, material and clothing and walls, or even use parts of their bodies.

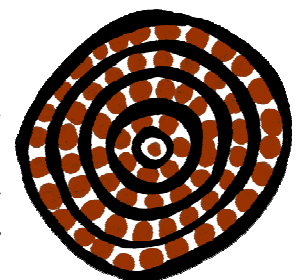


Printing with children can also be a great way for them to experiment, learn about why things happen, about colours and mixing them. It is also a free and easy way for children to express themselves. If children do these types of activities in a group they have the opportunity to use and practice their language skills and to share their ideas.

There are so many different types of things you can use to print with and print on. You can have a box in your centre to collect all sorts of things to do printing activities.

Things to add to the printing box

Print with leaves, flowers & sticks, shells, stones potato mashers, spoons, forks, strainers egg flips, bits of wood, toy blocks, foil, egg cartons, plastic bubble wrap, sponges, wheel sponges, moulds, crushed paper, tissue paper, toy cars, animals and cotton reels. Use your imagination!



Print on coloured paper, newspaper, boxes, paper plates, brown paper, brick walls, wood, cards, mirrors, material, clothing, pillow cases

Get the printing area ready for the kids

- Cover the table or floor with newspaper or plastic sheeting
- Make sure the children are wearing an old T-shirt, smock or shirt to cover their clothes.
- Put the paint on ice cream lids or container lids
- Put a container for the used printing tools on the table. This stops paint and tools from being spread all over the table.
- Make sure the paint is used carefully and that the kids are not too squashed.
- Have an area for the prints to dry.



Supervision - For the activity to be enjoyable and successful for the children they must be supervised.

Be careful not to take over. Let them print what they want.

Supervision allows for:

- A controlled messy work environment, (make sure the paint is used carefully and that the kids are not too squashed).
- Help with drying the prints once they are finished
- Talking within the group to develop appropriate communication and language skills
- Cleaning up - Children can help the staff to wash printing tools, clean paint trays and wipe down tables. This can be just as much fun as the printing activity.
- Once again this part of the activity should be supervised.



Everyone should wash their hands when they have finished.