



Creating Art

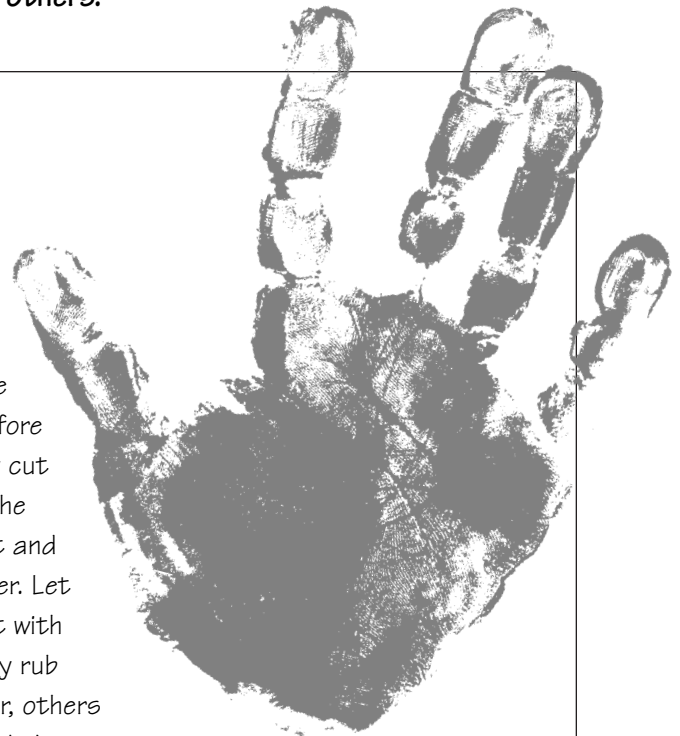
Children need chances to be creative every day. They can do this in many ways through imaginary play, musical activities, and art. When doing art activities, be sure you understand the difference between art and a craft activity. Crafts involve giving children specific directions to make something that has a finished product that looks similar to everyone else's. Sometimes pre-cut materials are used. An art project is when a child is given materials and is encouraged to explore and use them freely to create something using their imagination. None will look like any others.

Prints

Children enjoy printing activities. Here are some different ways to have printing fun.

- Put some paint in a shallow dish or plate. Have the children place their hands in the paint, then carefully make handprints on a large piece of paper. (A helpful hint: mix a few drops of liquid dish soap with the paint to make cleaning up easier.) The children can create their own design of handprints on their paper.
- Fold a piece of drawing or construction paper in half and crease. Open the paper and place on a table. Have the children drip some paint on one side of the paper only. This can be one color or several colors. Fold the paper together and gently rub the painted area. Open to discover the print and lay flat to dry.

- Cut sponges into shapes. You can use cookie cutters to trace designs on sponges before cutting them or simply cut them into pieces. Dip the sponge piece into paint and print on a piece of paper. Let the children experiment with the sponges. Some may rub them hard on the paper, others will press them down lightly. Each child can decide how to make his or her prints.
- Fruits and vegetables, cut cross-wise, make interesting prints. Some good ones to use are carrots, potatoes, apples, and green peppers.



CHALK DRAWINGS

What you need:

- Colored chalk and white chalk
- Bright or dark colored construction paper

What to do:

Children can draw on the paper using the chalk. They can create winter scenes or colorful pictures. Mount their creations on a different color paper, then hang in the room for all to enjoy.

PAPER ART — CREATING WITH TISSUE

Using thin tissue paper gives a child a new way to create art with paper. There are many colors available to use for art projects.

What you need:

- Tissue paper of various colors
- Construction paper or cardboard
- Small paint brush
- Liquid starch or white craft glue thinned with water

What to do:

- Children can cut or tear tissue paper in a variety of ways. It can also be twisted or crumpled.
- Paint a thin coating of the liquid starch or glue on the construction paper or cardboard.
- Place the tissue paper creations on the glued surface.
- Brush the creations with the starch or glue mixture.
- Several layers and various shapes can be added.



TRACING THINGS

Children can develop fine motor skills and be creative while doing this activity.

What you need:

- Plastic lids of various sizes and shapes, plastic cookie cutters, small toys, or other shapes to trace
- Paper
- Crayons, pencils, or markers

What to do:

Place the materials on a table and encourage the children to use them to trace the shapes on the paper using a pencil, crayons, or markers. They can use several shapes, overlap designs, and trace some with a pencil and others with crayons — whatever they decide to do. Some may want to color their designs.



Pennsylvania Pathways

Professional Development
for Child Caregivers

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Cooperative Extension
College of Agricultural Sciences

Developed by: Nancy Wilson, Penn State Better Kid Care

Dr. James E. Van Horn, Better Kid Care Program Director

253 Easterly Parkway, State College, PA 16801 • Phone: 1-800-452-9108 • Website: betterkidcare.psu.edu.

Supported by funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Pennsylvania Pathways.

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