



WACKY BRUSHES ARTISTIC TOUCHES

DETAILS

Collect a variety of unusual items to use as paintbrushes. Try things like a marble, a feather, a sponge, a pencil, a wooden block with a pattern etched into its sides, and a plastic Lego or Duplo block. Be sure to supervise young children with anything sharp or small enough to be a choking hazard. Use a paper plate or the inside of a shoe box top as your canvas and have your child dip the different items you have collected in washable paints. Then encourage your child do whatever comes naturally to spread the paint around. Try putting a blob of paint onto the painting surface and ask your child what might happen if he or she rolls a ball or a pencil through it. See what you get by using a plastic fork to scratch through a bunch of paint. Dab with the sponge and then see what happens to the paint when the sponge gets squashed.

The sides of the plate or shoe box top will help to keep the paint and messy “paintbrushes” contained and your child will have created a piece of modern art using alternative application techniques.

Don't forget to talk about the various properties of the items being used and to try to make predictions about the unique effects each item will produce when spreading paint around.

If this becomes a favorite activity that you would like to repeat, have your child come up with a range of other unique items to paint with and don't hesitate to venture into mixes different colors and making predictions about the resulting colors you will get.

BENEFITS

This out-of-the-box art activity is easy, promotes a range of important skills, and can be fun for children of all ages.

Benefits include:

- Developing fine motor skills
- Promoting creativity
- Bolstering vocabulary
- Furthering knowledge of basic geometric planes and curves
- Practicing making cause-and-effect predictions
- Connecting over your time together