

Brushes & Stampers

Activity Pack

S&S Worldwide
Item # AP165



IDEAS



Brushes and stamps aren't just for painting! Try some of these activities for paint-related fun.

1. A Mystery Art Show will have children giggling with delight. Collect 2-3 samples of each child's artwork and display it in the room. Make sure their names are not visible. Invite parents to come to the art show. As they arrive, give parents small stickers with their child's name on it. Parents guess which picture is their child's and attach the sticker to it. After everyone has guessed, children delight in telling their parents if they were right or wrong!
2. Have an Art Parade. Spend several days letting children paint pictures so every child has one. Mount pictures on construction paper to give a "museum quality" appearance. Arrange for your children to visit another class or group of children. Your group holds their artwork and marches past the groups of other children... to rousing applause of course. When parents come to pick up their children, ask them to form a long line so the budding artists can march by once again, proudly displaying the masterpieces to their parents.
3. Use circle time to reinforce the concept of shapes. Ahead of time, use masking tape to outline a star, heart, apple or house shape where you normally have circle time. Show children the small sponge shape, and then let them compare it to the shape they are sitting on. Some programs use chalk to mark the shape on the carpet. Children might like to walk around each shape, one foot in front of the other to help develop balance.
4. When putting out a set of animal sponge stampers for a first time, set aside two stamps. Let children use the majority of stamps for several days. Let one stamp dry overnight without rinsing out the paint. During circle time, bring out clean unused stamps. Have children discuss the difference in color and texture between the stamps that received daily use and the new stamps. How did the stamp with dried up paint feel compared to a brand new stamp? What is still the same about all the stamps?
5. Who says you have to paint with your hands? Go outside and place paper on the ground. Have children sit down and place a paint brush between their toes and try to paint a picture.
6. Find a large area with a smooth surface such as a gym or flat grassy area. Give each child a paint brush and have them practice balancing the wooden end of the paint brush on the palm of their hand. Now that's developing eye-hand coordination!
7. Reverse the idea of moving a paint brush around on paper. Have an adult hold a paint brush (with paint on the tip) in a stable position. Children can hold a piece of paper and move the paper back and forth over the brush to create a painting. This takes some getting used to!
8. Give children 4" x 6" index cards. Ask them to use the sponge stamp to stamp a picture of a shape or object. After the paint dries, cut the shape out of card and attach a scrap piece of flannel on the back. During circle time, thank children for helping you make flannel board figures. They'll feel proud of their contribution. Use figures for counting, sorting, etc.

9. Put 5-6 student-made flannel board figures on the flannel board. Discuss each shape or object. Ask children to close their eyes. Remove one flannel board piece. When children open their eyes, see if they can guess which item is missing. Repeat several times.
10. Surprise children by changing the shape of their paint paper on the easel. Cut the paper in large triangle or circle shapes. Watch what happens if you cut a hole out of the center of a traditional rectangle piece of paper. A great way to develop creativity.
11. When setting out paint for pre-schoolers, mix in a few drops of dishwashing detergent. If children happen to get paint on their clothes, the soap makes the paint easier to remove. Parents will thank you!
12. Give children white paper and paint brushes. Set out red and white paint and ask children to make pink paint. Let them experiment with different combinations to get pink. On another day, set out yellow and red paint so children can try and create orange. What happens if you mix red, green, blue, yellow and brown paint together?
13. Normally, children grab a brush and use any color to paint. After setting out the brushes with red, green, yellow and blue handles, ask children to match the brush color with paint. Red handled brushes go with the red paint; blue handles go with blue paint, etc. This helps children learn the concept of "same."
14. Attach a long piece of butcher paper to a wall. (Make sure newspaper is on the floor to catch runny paint.) Have children work together stamping and painting a giant mural. As they paint, reinforce positive behavior such as sharing paint and being careful not to bump each other.
15. During circle time, give each child a sponge shape stamp. One at a time, ask them to show the group his/her stamp. Then find a similar shape in the room. They could show their apple stamp and compare it to an apple on the teacher's desk or a picture of an apple on the bulletin board. Repeat so each child has a turn.
16. Collect the animal stamps and put in a bag. Ask child to reach in the bag and select a stamp. The rest of the group acts out that particular animal, complete with authentic sounds. Repeat until your young animals get tired.
17. Your children have probably painted pictures of flowers. Begin a discussion of what it takes for flowers to grow. Children will probably say dirt, seeds, sun and water. For an easy experiment, plant fast growing seeds such as radish or marigolds in a cup. Place in a sunny location and water daily. At the same time, plant another set of seeds, but this time "water" them with tempera paint from the paint center. Label each container and watch what happens. Can plants grow if "watered" with paint?
18. Give each child paper and a brush or other painting implements. Play short sections of various types of music. Ask children to paint according to how the music makes them feel.
19. Even though you probably clean the paint brushes and sponge stamps daily, they still have dried paint in places. One day, instead of painting, set out plastic tubs with warm soapy water. Show how the water is clear. Let children wash and play with all the brushes and stamps. At the end of the day, compare the color of water from when you started. Did your brushes get clean?
20. Hold up the large circle of filter paper. Now hold up a smaller, traditional coffee filter. Discuss the concept of big and little. Can children find the same object in "big" and "little" versions? How about a little doll show compared to their show? They might find a small ball and a large playground ball.
21. Set up 4-5 paint stations with paper, brushes, paint and stampers. Assign a child to each station and ask them to start painting. At the sound of a chime or whistle, each child moves to another painting and adds their personal touch. Repeat until each child has painted on each paper. When everyone is done, can they identify what they did on each picture?
22. Drop the sponge shapes in a bag. Ask for a volunteer to reach in the bag and identify the shape by feel alone. Repeat until each child has a turn to guess.

Painting Some BIG Projects!

Submarine Windows:

Most children have seen pictures of round windows on cruise ships or submarines. Give them large circular filter paper to use as their undersea picture. Using a spray bottle, wet the filter paper and then paint with blue watercolor. Let the "ocean" dry. Collect sea creature stamps and stamp starfish, dolphins, fish and other sea creatures on the picture. Use a brush to paint green seaweed. Hang the circular windows on the wall and peak out into the world of the ocean.

Giant Jellyfish:

Wet a piece of filter paper and use watercolor to paint any color the child wants. While paper is drying, cut 8-10 strips of crepe paper into 2 foot lengths. Glue one end of each strip to the bottom of a regular sized paper plate like spokes on a wheel. Have an adult poke a hole in the center of the plate and tie a 2 foot piece of ribbon or yarn which will be used to hang the jellyfish. Gently wad newspaper or a paper towel dome and place paper filter on top. Use paint to draw a face for your jellyfish. Hang jellyfish and watch their tentacles move back and forth with any movement.

Super Hero Cape:

Fold a 3" section of the filter paper circle to form a straight edge. This is the top of the cape. Have children decorate their Super Hero cape with brightly colored paint. Let paint dry. Have an adult use 2 safety pins to attach the cape. Let children decide if they want to leave cape in one piece or cut into strips. Watch children enjoy running and jumping in their very own Super Hero Capes!

Friendly Ghost:

Set out paint and sponge stamps so children can decorate their ghost. Since this is a friendly ghost, any color or shape is fine. While paint is drying, wad up a piece of newspaper the size of an orange. Have an adult help children place the center of the paper filter over the newspaper ball. Tie a ribbon around the bottom to create a ghost "head." Use paint, stickers and wiggle eyes to make a smiling ghost. If you want to hang these friendly creatures, slide a paper clip or safety pin into the top of the ghost's head and attach a ribbon.

Really Big Butterfly:

Dampen the filter paper. Provide various colors of watercolor paint so children can paint the paper with a tie-dye effect. While paper is drying, use tempera paint to paint two wooden paint stirrers for the butterfly's body (many hardware stores will give you these for free). Let dry. Spread glue on unpainted sides of both paint stirrers. Scrunch up the center of the filter paper to form butterfly wings and place on one paint stirrer. Set the other paint stirrer on top so the paper is between the two wooden sticks. Hold for several minutes or wrap rubber bands around each end until glue dries. Children can then add wiggle eyes for the face or sequins to decorate their really big butterfly. Cut two small pieces of ribbon and place between the sticks to form antenna.

Fantastic Fish:

Spray a filter paper circle with water and paint any color with watercolor. Children use a paint brush to draw a face on fish. Use the Floppy Foam Brush to add various colors of paint on fish body to look like scales. Cut a scrap piece of paper to form a tail for fish.

Fancy, Flouncy Hat:

Use the Floppy Foam Painter to speckle the paper filter with a bright color. Use a wide paint brush to paint a simple border around the edge in a contrasting color. Let dry. Add more color to these delightful hats by using sponge stampers in a random design. When paper is dry, center the circle on a child's head. Gently wrap masking tape around the crown of the child's head, creating a custom fitting hat. Cover tape with a ribbon and add a bow if you like. Now go for a walk wearing these extra fancy hats.

May Day of Baskets:

Cut each filter circle in half, then in half again. Use various brushes, rollers and stamps to create colorful designs. When paint is dry, roll paper into a cone shape for your basket and staple or tape shut. Punch two holes in the top. Attach ribbon for easy hanging. Have children cut tissue paper strips or ribbon to glue to pointed end of May basket.

Pull Along Kite:

Set out a variety of brushes, rollers and stamps so children can decorate the paper filter however they want. While paint dries, decorate empty cardboard rolls, cut in 5"-6" lengths. This is the handle for your kite. Punch two holes in one end of the cardboard roll. Show children how to punch 4 evenly spaced holes in their circular paper. Use notebook paper reinforcements to keep holes from tearing. Tie a piece of yarn 24"-20" to each hole. Attach the other end of yarn to the two holes in the cardboard handle. Go outside and watch the kits fly behind children as they run. These can also be used as parachutes. Have an adult stand on a chair and drop each parachute. It will slowly drift to the ground.

Rainbows:

Cut paper filter in half. Provide various colors of paint so children can paint curved rainbow stripes. Let paint dry. Attach colorful streamers or surveyor's tape at ends of rainbow.

Twirl and Flutter Hats:

Cut paper filter in half. Show children how to use fingertip brushes to paint a border along ridges of filter paper. Use stamps to decorate the rest of the paper. After paint dries, form hat into a cone shape and adjust to fit each child's head. Tape or staple ends shut. Cut strips of tissue paper and attach to top of hat. The lightweight paper strips will flutter as children twirl around.

Handy Tree:

Give each child a large piece of construction paper. Paint the bottom of child's hand with brown or black paint. Have them press on the paper, making a handprint which will be the tree branches. Use a paint brush to extend the tree trunk from the bottom of the child's hand. Let dry. Use the Floppy Foam Brush to create leaves with green paint all around the branches. Show children how to dip their thumb in red paint and create apples all over the tree.

Red Nose Friend:

This is an extra-easy craft for young children. Using the Floppy Foam Painter, dab white paint all over a piece of black or dark blue paper. Glue a red pom-pom somewhere on the paper. What is it? Rudolph in a snowstorm.

Wrapping Paper:

Set out large rolls of freezer or butcher paper. Children can use rollers or stamps to decorate the paper. Let dry and give to parents for customized gift wrap.