

Explore Colour

Among the most accessible objectives in the Paint and Colour strand of the curriculum are:

- 1 experiment with mixing colour; and
- 1 explore and experiment with a variety of paints, pigments and other colour materials.

Traditionally much of our work in this strand has centred on tasks that require children to 'Paint a picture of a...' However, simpler and more exploratory work with colour can be equally interesting, can take away the pressure of having to be representational and can lead to interesting, vibrant and vivid art products. A variety of interesting techniques, that explore how colour flows, blends and mixes, might be used at all class levels. Those outlined below are a few of the possibilities.



KEY MESSAGE

Working mainly with the primary colours i.e. red, yellow and blue and with black and white, provides children with opportunities to learn how to effectively mix and create colours.



Drip Painting

Drip Indian ink onto a piece of paper. Move and tilt your paper to make the ink flow in different directions and to make a pattern. Add colour to the shapes you have created e.g. using drawing inks.

Finger Monoprinting

Squeeze thick paint onto a smooth, non-porous surface e.g. acetate. Use your finger to make patterns. Place a sheet of paper over this and rub the back. Allow this to dry and repeat with a second colour.



Scraped Painting

Dip the edges of pieces of stiff card into trays of thick paint. Scrape these along a piece of paper, changing direction each time you use a new colour.

NOTE

Any of the activities outlined in last month's article on drawing can be adapted for use with paint and colour.



Glue Painting

Put some PVA glue into a squeeze-top bottle. Create a pattern on paper with the glue. Sprinkle coloured sand/powder paint over your design (from an old pepper pot).

KEY MESSAGE

If we are aiming for development in children's art we need to return to, revisit and practice skills and techniques on a regular basis – rather than search for new activities all the time, such searching often leads to mere replication.



Paper Batik

Randomly scatter torn pieces of newspaper on a sheet of paper. Use sponges to print colour around each. Remove the pieces of newspaper. Repeat the process with more newspaper and another colour.



Torn Paper Painting

Cover paper with a design in wax crayon. Scrunch this a few times, open it out flat and wash over it with inks/diluted paints.



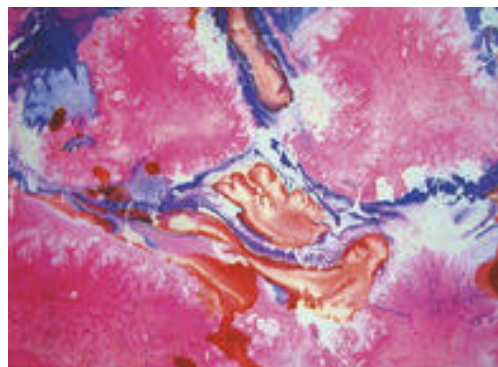
Spray/Spatter Paint

Cut shapes from card. Lay them on a piece of paper. Dip an old toothbrush into ink/diluted paint and use this to spray. Spray with different colours or try out a second set of cut shapes.



Wax Resists

Try washing over all kinds of designs and pictures created in wax crayon with inks or diluted paints. Try out a combination of chalks and wax crayons.



Sugar Painting

Make a syrup with icing sugar and water. Paint paper with this syrup. Dribble on inks or diluted paints. Watch feathery colour patterns appear.

OTHER TECHNIQUES

Paper Tie/Dye

Dip folded pieces of greaseproof papers into jars of watercolour dyes.

Patchwork Quilt

Choose a colour. Add white. Add black. Each time you create a new tone, paint a strip of card with this. When the strips are dry cut then up into squares and arrange them as a quilt or a mosaic.

Extend/Complete a Picture

Cut a picture from a magazine. Stick it to the centre of a page. Use your paints or other colour materials to paint out from the image.

Look and Respond

Look at how some modern artists have created art by exploring and experimenting with paints and colours e.g.

- | Henri Matisse
- | Jackson Pollock
- | Piet Mondrian
- | Tony O'Malley

n Compiled by the Visual Arts Support Team of the Primary Curriculum Support Programme. Visit www.pcsp.ie and www.iamanartist.ie for more ideas on paint and colour.