

過程，並不是作品

當你和小童玩藝術和工藝活動時，過程——事情是怎樣發生的——經常遠重要過作品——你最後做出的物品。

探索可能性

剛剛學步的小童同年幼的學齡前小童剛剛開始探索他們周圍的世界，對他們來講，過程尤其重要。關於手指顏料在他們手指間的感覺、將顏料在紙張上面塗抹的方法，總有調和不同顏色。小童有很多要學的東西。他們所繪的圖畫是否“美麗”根本並不重要。他們的第一次嘗試也許最後是將所有顏色混成深褐色，但這並不重要。他們其實已發現了很多關於顏色和質地的知識。

找出解決的方法

當你更多地考慮藝術和工藝活動的過程而並非作品時，你將會鼓勵小童嘗試新的材料。你想讓他們發現在紙上塗抹顏料的不同方法、如何使不同的質地能互相粘在一起、當你試著用雞蛋盒搭一個橋時結果會怎麼樣。當小童們在做這些的時候，他們也有機會培養解決問題的技巧。讓他們按照他們的方式來嘗試新事物，即使結果不成功也無妨。不是他們做的每樣東西都一定要貼在冰箱門上。

模仿樣本

另一方面，有時你也許決定更注重做出來的工藝品看上去像某個特定的成品。模仿一個樣本是與憑想像來創造很不同的技巧。稍年長的小童一旦已學會如何使用材料同工具，也許就可以試著照著樣本來模仿。他們甚至會將這種挑戰視為一種樂趣，儘管我們應該隨時給他們機會進行個體創造。

擺弄材料

就算小童超過了第一次發現的年齡，他們仍然需要只享受過程的機會，並且你不需要擔心他們的作品是否“靚”或者“好”。倘若沒有這個壓力的話，年齡稍長的小童(而且甚至成年人!)能夠將擺弄材料視為一種樂趣，並且發現新的效果。當你計畫藝術經驗時，記住在目標是作品和只是注重過程之間保持一個平衡。

基本的工藝材料

下面是一些基本的工藝用品，將會鼓勵小童通過藝術和工藝來表達他們自己。

- 小童安全剪刀
- 膠棒，白色乳膠或者粘糊
- 大號或者標準尺寸的蠟筆(可水洗)
- 白板筆，分幾隻不同筆尖(可水洗)
- 彩色鉛筆、粉筆
- 顏料和顏料刷
- 建築紙、新聞紙、紙片
- 冰棒棍
- 毛和織物碎片
- 空盒、牛奶和雞蛋盒、廁紙卷軸
- 包裝紙碎片、絲帶
- 舊畫冊、雜誌、賀卡

用刷子之外的用具來塗顏料

任何東西都能夠拿來用作塗抹顏料的創造性和有意思的工具，盡情發揮你的想像力。

- 刷子(小刷子、牙刷、舊顏料刷，等)
- 大印色輓(將其接到一個舊掃把上，這樣一來，小童便可以在人行路上塗抹顏料)
- 手指和腳趾
- 海綿、化妝包、滴管
- 擠壓瓶和噴霧瓶
- 曲奇切割器、玩具動物(用其來印染)
- 積木(在上面粘上東西以產生不同的質地)
- 廚房用具(用馬鈴薯搗碎器能畫出有意思的圖案)
- 彈子(在鋪好紙張的盒子裏滾動)
- 吸管(將顏料在紙上到處吹)
- 玩具車(將車放在顏料上滾，之後在放在紙上滾)
- 松樹枝
- 地毯碎片、缺一隻的手套(用其來印染)
- 廁紙卷軸(在紙上滾、在膠帶或其他質地上滾)
- 用泡泡塗顏料(將泡泡液加到顏料中，之後將顏料泡泡吹到紙上)
- 繩子、毛線
- 冰塊(在乳酪盒中拌入顏料和許多水，放入冰棒棍作為把手，冷凍)
- 網狀洋蔥袋(裝滿棉球並系緊，並用其來印染)

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Process, not Product

When you do art and craft activities with children, the **process** — how things happen — is often much more important than the **product** — the object you end up with.

Exploring possibilities

Process is especially important for toddlers and young preschoolers who are just beginning to explore the world around them. They have lots to learn about the feel of finger paint between their fingers, the way it can be pushed around on paper and the way the colours mix together. It's not at all important that their painting be "beautiful." Their first attempts might end up a deep brown mixture of all the colours and that's fine. They discovered a lot about colours and textures.

Discovering solutions

When you think more about process than about the product of art and craft activities, you will encourage children to try out new materials. You want them to *discover* different ways to put paint on paper, how different textures can be made to stick to one another, what happens when you try to build a bridge with egg cartons. While they are doing this, children also get a chance to develop their

problem solving skills. Let them try things their way, even if it doesn't always turn out. Not everything they make has to be put on show on the refrigerator door!

Following a model

On the other hand, sometimes you may decide to put more emphasis on making a craft that looks like a specific finished product. Copying a model is a very different skill from creating from imagination. Older children may be ready to try following an example, once they've learned how materials and tools work. They may even enjoy the challenge, although there should always be room for individual creativity.

Playing with materials

Even after the age of first discovery, children still need opportunities to just enjoy the process, without worrying whether their product will be "pretty" or "good." With that pressure removed, older children (and even adults!) can have fun playing around with materials and discovering new effects. When you plan art experiences, remember to keep a balance between aiming at the product and simply letting the process unfold.

Basic Craft Supplies

Here are some basic craft supplies that will encourage children to express themselves through arts and crafts.

- child-safe scissors
- glue sticks, white glue or paste
- large and regular-sized crayons (washable)
- markers, some with different tips (washable)
- coloured pencils, chalk
- paint and paint brushes
- construction paper, newsprint, scrap paper
- popsicle sticks
- wool and fabric scraps
- empty boxes, milk and egg cartons, toilet paper rolls
- wrapping paper scraps, ribbon
- old catalogues, magazines, greeting cards

Painting beyond brushes

Just about anything can be turned into a creative and interesting tool to paint with. Let your imagination run wild.

- brushes (small brushes, tooth brushes, old paint brushes, etc.)
- large paint rollers (attach them to an old broom handle and children can roller paint on the sidewalk)
- fingers and toes
- sponges, Q-tips, eye droppers
- squeeze bottles and spray bottles
- cookie cutters, toy animals (print with them)
- wooden blocks (glue things on them to create different textures)
- kitchen utensils (potato mashers make interesting designs)
- marbles (roll them around in a box lined with paper)
- straws (blow paint around on paper)
- toy cars (roll them around in paint, then on paper)
- pine branches
- carpet pieces, mittens that have lost their mate (print with them)
- toilet paper rolls (roll on paper; glue string or other textures to rolls)
- bubble painting (add bubble liquid to paint and blow to paint bubbles on paper)
- string, wool
- ice cubes (mix paint with lots of water in yogurt containers, add a popsicle stick for a handle, freeze)
- deodorant bottle (take ball out of empty deodorant bottle, fill with paint and water. Put ball back, roll paint onto paper)
- onion bags (fill with cotton balls and tie tightly, print with them)

by Betsy Mann

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