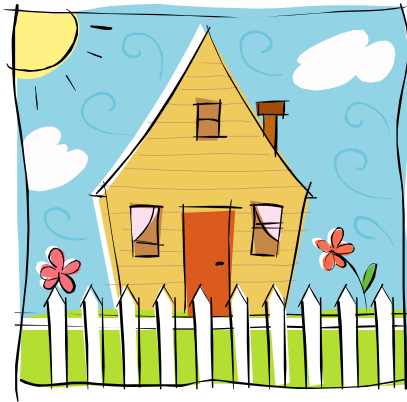


# Home Is Where The Art Is!



## Creative Art Experiences Using Ordinary Household Items

**Heather Thomason**  
**Preschool Director/Teacher**  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Early Childhood Center  
22915 Greater Mack Avenue  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080  
(586) 202-4367  
(Available for Staff Training)

### Too Much Mess!!!

Tips for controlling the Mess!

- ✚ Know your tolerance for mess in your home or classroom.
- ✚ Take messy activities outside.
- ✚ Cover surfaces before starting an activity. It is easier to roll up newspaper, than it is to scrub a table.
- ✚ Only put out the amount of sensory material you are willing to clean-up.
- ✚ Control the mess when painting by the amount of paint that you put out.
- ✚ Add soap to tempera paint to make it more washable.
- ✚ Some children do not like messy activities; respect their choice not to participate. Provide a tool so they do not have to touch the messy activity.

### Safety Tips

- Know what is safe for the group you have. What may be safe for a five year old may not be safe for a toddler.
- Directly supervise all activities that could pose a danger. For example, balloon prints, warming tray, etc.

The following activities can be done with ordinary household objects. Many of these items you may already have in your home. They also may be purchased at dollar stores or hardware stores. Garage sales and second-hand stores are also good resources for these items. A variety of paper can be used for these projects. Light colored bed sheets are also good for group painting project. They can be used for table clothes or for classroom use.

## **Let's Paint: Creative Painting Ideas**

### **Gadget Prints**

What you need: A variety of household gadgets with interesting shapes and tempera paint.

What to do: Pour a small amount of tempera paint on a tray, dip the gadget in the paint and press on the paper.

### **Plunger painting**

What you need: Clean new toilet plungers, tempera paint, tray, and a large roll of craft paper or sheet.

What to do: Pour a small amount of paint on tray, dip the plunger and then press it on the paper. This works best on a tile floor or outside.

### **Rocks in a Sock**

What you need: Fish rocks and a tube sock, tempera paint.

What to do: Pour a small amount of paint on a plate dip the sock in the paint and then bounce the sock onto the paper.

### **Rolling Pin Fold Overs**

What you need: Rolling pins, tempera paint, and a large piece of butcher paper.

What to do: Using a spoon drip small amounts of paint down the center of the paper. Do not get it too close to the edge. Then using rolling pins roll out from the middle out. Open it up immediately so paint does not stick.

### **Balloon Prints**

What you need: Latex balloons (not water balloons), tempera paint.

What to do: Dip balloon in paint and prints on the paper. Supervise children with balloons.

### **Crumbled Paper Prints**

What you need: Newspaper or other light weight paper and tempera paint

What to do: Have children help you wad up sheets of paper into ball. Then dip in paint to make prints.

### **Buzz, Buzz, Buzz**

What you need: Battery operated toothbrush and tempera paint.

What to do: Have the child dip brush in paint and then turn on the paint with the moving brush. The children get a big kick out of this and it is really not that messy. This could be done at a table or on an easel.

### **Magical Marble Painting**

What you need: Magnetic marble, Plexiglas, two chairs, magnet wand and tempera paint.

What to do: Set up the Plexiglas between two chairs. Then put a small amount of tempera paint into a margarine tub and add marbles. Place a piece of paper on the Plexiglas and then take out the marbles and place them on the top of the paper. Using magnetic bingo wands move them from underneath the Plexiglas.

### **Marble Painting in a Can**

What you need: Large coffee can, tempera paint, marbles, and paper to fit in the can.

What to do: Put paper in can along with a spoonful of paint. Then add marbles, put on the lid and shake the can.

### **Massive Marble Painting:**

What you need: Wading pool, tempera paint, and tennis balls.

What to do: Put a sheet in the bottom of the pool and dip tennis balls in paint. Then have children hold the edge of the pool and roll around the balls.

### **Bubble Wrap Printing:**

What you need: Bubble wrap and tempera paint

What to do: Paint bubble wrap and then press onto paper.

## **Color My World: Ideas to Use with Food Color**

### **Sticky Colors**

What you need: Food color and light corn syrup.

What to do: Mix food color and corn syrup and then paint with small brushes or cotton swabs. This is a good project to do on a cool day. Dry flat so they won't drip.

### **Oil Painting**

What you need: Cooking oil and food color mixed with water.

What to do: Paint a design with oil on paper. Paint over design with food color and water mixture.

### **Suction Cup Colors**

What you need: suction cup soap dishes, food color mixed with water, eye droppers, and paper towel.

What to do: Using an eye dropper drop small amounts of food color into suction cup making a design. Then cover with paper towel. Remove and let dry. This activity works best with children five and up.

### **Ice Sculpture**

What you need: Large chunk of ice, salt food color, and turkey basters

What to do: Mix warm water, salt and food color. Then let children use turkey baster to squirt mixture over the ice. The water and salt will melt the ice creating a sculpture.

## **Marker Madness: Ideas Using Watercolor Markers**

### **Big Motion Markers**

What you need: About 10 watercolor markers and a rubber band.

What to do: Wrap a rubber band around the markers so you have a giant marker to color with.

### **Wonder Wipes**

What you need: Watercolor markers and wet wipes.

What to do: Color a design on the wet wipe. Then crumple the wipe so the colors will mix.

### **Old Markers Made New**

What you need: Old dry marker and water.

What to do: Dip markers in small amount of water and then color with them. The children really enjoy seeing what color the water will change into.

### **Marker Magic**

What you need: Water color paper and markers.

What to do: Dip paper in water and then color over with markers.

## **Cool Crayons: Ideas Using Crayons**

### **Scratch and Sniff**

What you need: Sand paper, cinnamon stick, and crayons.

What to do: Color on sand paper and then rub over with cinnamon stick.

Variation: Rub over the sand paper with orange or lemon rinds.

### **Crayon Melt**

This needs one on one supervision with any age group!

What you need: Warming tray (available at thrift stores), peeled Crayola crayons, eraser, and paper.

What to do: Cover tray with aluminum foil and plug in. When the tray is warm have the child hold the crayon by the top and create a design on the foil. Then place a piece of paper on the warming tray and use the eraser to rub over the design. Cover surfaces. Go over safety rules about touching the warming tray. The crayons with glitter add sparkle to this project.

## **Great Resources for Sensory Art**

*The Big Messy Art Book* by MaryAnn F. Kohl, 2000, ISBN 0-87659-206-X, [www.gryphonhouse.com](http://www.gryphonhouse.com)

*Tumbling over the Edge* by Bev Bos and Jenny Champman, 2005, ISBN 0-931793-02,  
[www.turnthepage.com](http://www.turnthepage.com)