



# Kitchen Art Fun



## People Bingo

Enjoys Gardening or Landscaping	Likes to "Do Hair"	Enjoys Making or Rearranging Furniture	Sews	Enjoys Looking at the Buildings When Visiting New Cities
Likes to "People Watch"	Takes Photos	Likes to Look at Stones	Doodles on the Margins	Enjoys Arranging Fresh Flowers
Decorates Cakes	Looks Forward to Coordinating Clothing for a Special Event	FREE SPACE	Enjoys Looking at Antiques	Likes to Look at the Illustrations in Books
Has Wallpapered a Room	Could Spend an Afternoon Watching Clouds	Enjoys Fancy Decorations on Their Nails	Visits Art Museums or Galleries	Enjoys Setting the Table for a Special Meal
Enjoys Fireworks	Enjoys Quilting	Looks Forward to Going to Art Fairs	Likes to Put Special Effort Into Gift Wrapping	Likes Clipping Out and Posting Cartoons

## A Group Agreement for Art

- I will have positive thoughts about myself as an artist.
- I will be optimistic about my abilities.
- I will recognize and acknowledge what I *can* do and what I *am* doing.
- I will recognize my own strengths and not compare my work unfavorably to someone else's.

## Remember Active Learning!

- ◆ Materials
  
- ◆ Manipulation
  
- ◆ Choice
  
- ◆ Child thought and language
  
- ◆ Support from adults

## Children's Art

- ◆ It's about the **process**, not the final product!
  
- ◆ Developmentally, it starts with **exploration**:
  - Children explore what they can do with the materials.
  
  - Children scribble, make marks, poke play dough, tear paper into pieces, squeeze fingerpaint through their fingers.
  
- ◆ Developmentally, it eventually moves to **representation**:
  - Children have an idea in mind and make that idea in their own way.
  
  - Children name their creations to identify the objects they represent; they deliberately recreate their ideas through art.

## Drawing

**Crayons:** Crayons are very durable and relatively cost effective. They take pressure to make them work, so are particularly good for fine-motor development. Because you can use them to shade and blend, they have greater creative value for children.

### *Variations for crayons:*

- Rubber-band three together.
- Melt stubs into chunky crayons for toddlers. *Directions:* Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Coat an old muffin tin with nonstick spray. Peel the paper off crayon stubs and put light colors together in a muffin cup. Heat for about 5 minutes or until crayons are melted together. Remove from oven and place in freezer for 30 minutes. Pop crayons out and use.
- Make multicolored crayons. *Directions:* Place two different colored crayons together. Follow the directions, above, for chunky crayons but when you take them out of the oven, use a toothpick to swirl the colors together.

**Markers:** Markers are easy to use and have a dramatic effect on the paper. They are highly pleasurable for children.

### *Idea:*

- Make a stand for markers from a piece of 2 x 4" lumber; drill holes big enough to put the cap side in. This helps keep the caps from getting lost and the markers from drying out.

**Bingo Dabbers:** These are great for toddlers or children who have fine-motor delays. They are nontoxic and easy to use.

### **Try this!**

- Rubbings
- Drawing to music
- Drawing in mud or wet sand

## Painting

Painting is a different physical experience for children than is drawing.

Tempera paint is probably the best value for a home setting.

### *Ideas:*

- A vinyl tablecloth or old plastic shower curtain on your table and on the floor makes cleanup a breeze!
- Finger-paint with mud or sand.
- Finger-paint with shaving cream.
- If you are worried about the paint, try it as an outside activity.

## Painting With Things and On Things

1. Look at the list of things to paint with (below, left).
2. Then combine with the list of things to paint on (below, right).
3. Add your own ideas.

### Things to Paint With

- Brushes — all sizes (toothbrush, basting brush, scrub brushes)
- Feathers
- Q-tips
- Toothpicks
- Yarn, string
- Straws
- Marbles, golf balls
- Fingers, hands, feet
- Sponges
- Forks, spoons
- Potato mashers
- Spatulas
- Corks
- Fruit, vegetables
- Cotton balls
- Hair curlers
- Eye droppers
- Squeeze bottles
- Small cars
- Plastic animals
- Styrofoam
- Pine needles
- Pipe cleaners
- Corn husks

### Things to Paint On

- Paper tubes
- Burlap or other fabric
- Cardboard
- Egg cartons
- Styrofoam
- Wood
- Rocks
- Shells
- Sticks
- Waxed paper
- Newspaper
- Boxes
- Wallpaper
- Windows
- Corks
- Balloons
- Paper bags
- Paper plates
- Clothespins
- Gift wrap
- Paper towels
- Magazine pages
- Sandpaper
- Aluminum foil
- Paper muffin cups



## Play Dough

Play dough is very inexpensive, keeps a long time, and the children can help you make it! Read the list below, then add your own ideas.

Things to add to or use with play dough:

- Cookie cutters
- Rolling pins
- Shells
- Buttons
- Small animal figures
- 
- 
- 
-

## Recipes

### Homemade Play Dough

Mix: 5 cups flour; 1 cup salt; 2 Tbsp. alum

Boil: 4 cups water

Add: 6 Tbsp. vegetable oil and food coloring to water

Stir: liquid ingredients into dry

Knead: until smooth

### Kool-Aid Play Dough

2½ cups flour

3 Tbsp. cooking oil

½ cup salt

2 cups boiling water

2 small pkgs. unsweetened Kool-Aid

Mix dry ingredients. Add oil and water. Stir quickly, mixing well. When cool, mix with your hands. Store in an airtight container.

### Cloud Dough

Mix: 1 cup salad oil; 6 cups flour; 1 cup water (add 1 Tbsp. at a time, if needed; just enough to bind the mixture)

This is great for very young children; it's soft and pliable. It will be very oily but it is an unusual tactile experience.

### Cornstarch Dough

1 part cornstarch

3 parts salt

1 part water

Heat the water and salt for a few minutes, then slowly add the cornstarch, stirring until well-mixed.

Knead the dough and add more water if necessary. This dough will dry without cracking.

### Salt Beads

½ cup table salt

¼ cup cornstarch

¼ cup water

Heat the salt in the water until piping hot. Add the salt solution to the other ingredients. Knead until smooth. Pinch off a small amount, roll in balls, slip onto a toothpick or nail, and place on waxed paper until dry.

### Flour/Salt Painting

¾ cup salt

1 cup flour

1¼ cups water

Fill bottles with mixture (best used in bottles with a closeable funnel top, such as mustard or ketchup bottles; glue bottles also work.

Have children pour. Should result in a drip method rather than large globs (harder to dry).

May keep it plain white, or add food coloring, or both.

### Cornstarch Surprise (Goop)

Mix cornstarch or Argo with water.

Add food coloring either to entire batch or have children do it with shakers. Best used on trays.

### Finger Paint

1 cup flour

1 cup sugar

2 cups cold water

4 cups boiling water

4 tsp. of powdered paint

Place flour, sugar, and 2 cups of cold water in a pan. Mix well and heat, stirring all the time.

Add 4 cups of boiling water. Stir continuously until the mixture thickens.

Add 4 tsp. of powdered paint. Stir well.

Allow to cool. Should be used within two days.

### Peanut Butter Play Dough\*

1 cup peanut butter

½ cup honey

¼ cup flour

Mix together all three ingredients. Add more flour if sticky. When you are all done playing with this play dough, you can eat it!

*\*Caution:* Avoid using honey with toddlers.

## Collages

For making collages, all you have to do is collect recyclable materials and provide things like tape, staplers, and glue.

*Ideas:*

- Create a “scrap box” full of recyclable materials that the children can always use for collages.
- If your scrap box gets low, ask parents to bring in their clean, recyclable material.

### My Ideas for My Scrap Box

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## Supporting the Artist in Each Child

- Repeat what the child says about his or her work.
- Say what you see — make comments about what you see in the artwork:

*You put small marks at the bottom and wavy lines toward the top.*

*The yellow paint is next to that bright blue spot.*

*You've made your play dough flat by pressing it down with your hands.*

*You used lots of crayons to make that color.*

- Use questions sparingly. Use questions that encourage children to talk about what they did.

*How did you...*

*Can you tell me about how you...*

## Some Things To Say or Not To Say

### If a child says:

#### **“Do you like my picture?”**

You could say, “Wow, you mixed all of the colors!” or “Look at the lines from the red and green markers you chose.” It helps if you let the child draw his own conclusions about his art.

#### **“I can’t do this.”**

You might say, “It can be hard to cut with scissors.” If you tell the child that it is an easy task, she may feel like she has failed if she can’t do it. On the other hand, you don’t want to discourage the child from trying it. Acknowledging that it can be hard affirms their feelings but encourages them to keep trying.

#### **“Look at my picture.”**

Avoid asking “What is it?” Preschool-age children may not be ready or able to tell you *what* their picture is (and if they are, they usually will come right out and tell you without your having to ask). This might be an opportunity to say to a child, “It sounds like you’re proud of your picture,” or to again comment on what the child has done. For example, you might say, “Look at all the colors on your paper.”

#### **“Mrs. Rosa, make me one, too.”**

This usually happens when an adult is doing representational art. It helps if you color “abstractly” or scribble, too. Try to make your picture look similar to the child’s. If you are right-handed, try holding your crayon in your left hand, or visa-versa. Children can be frustrated and develop negative feelings about their own abilities if they feel their artwork isn’t as good as yours.

### If a child says this to me:

#### **I can say this to him or her:**

## My Plans for Art

I want to add these art materials to my setting:

I want to start providing these art experiences to my children:

I want to remember not to say this:

I want to remember to say this instead: