

## Wall Art

### A Painting Exploration

While the children were creating their leaf monsters and nature plaques, I noticed some of the children really enjoyed spreading the glue on their plaques with a paint brush. There was a real interest in the paintbrushes and at first some children were content with just painting the plaque with glue. I decided to explore this interest and need by offering them a painting space. I decided to use the corner of the room to be able to provide more space and bigger paper so they could really explore the materials.

Sam and Matthew were the first set of painters. They carefully selected 3 colors red, blue and green. They worked side by side chatting with me and each other while they worked. Sam really got his whole body into the painting he was reaching to the top and squatting the bottom. Sometimes his motions were so big he required two hands on the paint brush.

**“TADA! Look a dinosaur! NO! A power ranger”** Sam said as he stepped back to show me his work. Matthew showed intense concentration while working on his piece. He carefully painted multiple squares on his paper and then started to paint over them. When I asked why he said **“Because I want to paint the squares. When I paint the squares it makes me look happy.”** When Matthew finished painting over all of the squares, he began to paint numbers on top. **“Look! 8, 9, 10”** as quick as the numbers were painted he erased them by painting over top of them. Sam saw Mathew changing his painting and decided that was a good idea. **“I going to change it”** Sam announced adding more green to his painting. **“Dinosaur”** Was Sam’s end piece. Mathew’s was **“one big square”**.

Next we had Lousia and Yuri painting side by side. They used the same color scheme as Matthew and Sam, red, blue, and green. These girls also painted with great concentration as they explored the paint and paper.

Louisa’s final piece was **“A hand and Louisa.”** Yuri’s final piece was **“sausages and other animals.”**

Benita and Nicole were the next artists to paint. Benita chose Purple, pink and white for her pallet and Nikki chose yellow, blue and orange. Benita started out by exploring her colors through a series of dots. **“Mine is dotty dots”** she said. Nikki started out with a series of lines and dots. **“Lalalala . . . dottsie, dottsie dottsie”** they both sang as they painted.

After a circle break the girls returned to finish up their painting. Benita’s final piece was **“a sock tree”** and Nikki’s was all about the colors, **“Mucho Colores!”**

The morning class really seemed to enjoy working with the paint and the large paper. It was a popular activity which unfortunately only had room for two friends at a time so we had to create a wait list. All the children did really well waiting for their turn. Once they got to paint they also did a really great job at using and sharing the space. The paint was placed between the two sheets of paper and each child got to choose three colors but they had to share a tray. This did not present any problems and the children on their own accord shared all the colors with their friends. They also shared ideas which brought up discussions about why people may copy you and why that is a positive thing.

The first day the paint was set up the afternoon didn't seem to have any interest in exploring the paint. The second day was much different. The morning class had done so many paintings and they were all displayed around the room, it peaked the interest of a couple children. Aurora asked **"what are all these pictures?"** I told her my friends in the morning class had been very busy painting pictures. **" Well I think that is something I should do"** she said. So I showed her the painting area. **"Wow"** said Anna **"I want to paint too!"**. So Ana and Aurora got all set up in the painting area. Anna asked for green, blue and purple while Aurora asked for yellow, pink and orange. Ana painted a picture of Herself with her friends Aurora and Rayne. Aurora painted a picture of a house that was for her and Anna.

The last of the painters for the day were Benny and Quintus. Benny stood and watched the other painters very patiently while he was waiting for a turn. Benny asked for green, yellow and orange paint. Benny took his time and carefully painted each image with detail. Benny was very proud of his final piece which was a **"rainbow and yellow."** Quintus choose purple, green and brown for his painting. spent a lot of time working on his picture. He seemed to really enjoy swirling the colors around in the tray and watching the paint spread as he made big brush strokes across the page. His final piece was **" a coloring of green."**

The children seem to really enjoy painting on a large canvas. They all waited patiently for a turn, and when it was their turn they shared the space and the paint pallet very nicely. Each pair seem to chat about their work and share ideas with one another. The afternoon class, was very inquisitive about the art work they saw from the morning class. The paintings hung around the room seem to intrigue and inspire more work. When you look around the classroom now our walls, doors and windows are all filled with colorful paintings. The children have taken great pride in their work and are very excited to display it in our up coming art show on **November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, from 10:20am-10:45am** and in the afternoon from **3:40pm - 4:00pm**.