

10 Simple Art Activities to Set Up for After School

Activities that require minimal set up & that children can do on their own with little or no guidance.

<p>1. Crayon-Watercolor Resist</p> <p>Set out: Watercolor paper and crayons</p> <p>The process: Let kids draw for a while then bring out the watercolors to paint over the drawings</p> <p>Variations: Use oil pastels. Draw white on white then reveal the mystery drawing by painting over it. Paint over leaf crayon rubbings.</p>	<p>2. Paper Cut Art</p> <p>Set out: Construction paper, scissors, hole punch, and tape or glue stick</p> <p>The process: Let kids fold, cut, and decorate paper.</p> <p>Variations: Try snowflakes, origami, paper hats, boats, sculptures, mobiles, fans, collage, paper dolls, pop-ups, flaps, etc.</p>
<p>3. Contact Paper Suncatcher</p> <p>Set out: Clear contact paper (cut into squares and taped to the table sticky side up) and colored tissue paper</p> <p>The process: Let the kids tear or cut the tissue paper into pieces then stick them to the contact paper. Cover with another sheet of contact paper and hang in the window.</p> <p>Variations: Use flowers, leaves, and other nature items instead of tissue paper. Try ribbons, lace, or feathers.</p>	<p>4. Collage</p> <p>Set out: Cardstock, a glue bottle, and collage items such as beans, feathers, and buttons.</p> <p>The process: Let kids glue collage items to the cardstock as desired.</p> <p>Variations: Draw a picture then fill in with collage items. Glue collage items to a cardboard box for a 3-D experience.</p>
<p>5. Toothpick Sculptures</p> <p>Set out: Toothpicks and marshmallows (stale works best)</p> <p>The process: Let kids build using the toothpicks and marshmallows.</p> <p>Variations: Other easy sculptural activities include pipecleaners, straws and tape, playdough and tools, cardboard boxes and glue, bread dough and raisins.</p>	<p>6. Q-tip Pointillism</p> <p>Set out: Paint, paper, and Q-tips</p> <p>The process: Let kids dip Q-tips in paint then press on paper to make a picture with dots.</p> <p>Variations: Try cotton balls for larger dots. Use Do-A-Dot markers or regular markers. Try two primary colors together to see if you can create the illusion of color mixing.</p>
<p>7. Printing with Fruits & Vegetables</p> <p>Set out: Paper, paints, and one or more fruits such as a lemon or apple cut in half.</p> <p>The process: Dip fruit in paint then press to paper.</p> <p>Variations: Try printing with other objects such as leaves, animal figure feet, kitchen tools. Get out the stamp pad and stamps. Try fingerprint art.</p>	<p>8. Hole "Challenge" Drawings</p> <p>Set out: Paper with a hole cut out of it and a pen</p> <p>The process: Let kids draw on the hole paper as they see fit.</p> <p>Variations: Try different size, shape, or number of holes. Cut the paper into different shapes. Use white paper, colored construction paper, or large posterboard. Glue a paper shape to a piece of paper. Offer different drawing tools. Try this with paints or collage items.</p>
<p>9. Masking Tape Art</p> <p>Set out: Paper, scissors, and masking tape</p> <p>The process: Let kids cut or tear masking tape into pieces and adhere to paper in any way desired.</p> <p>Variations: Offer multiple colors and widths of tape. Draw or paint over the masking tape art then remove the tape.</p>	<p>10. Simply Drawing / Simply Painting</p> <p>Set out: Paper and drawing tool or paints</p> <p>The process: Let kids draw and paint! No need to get fancy.</p> <p>Variations: You can vary the papers, sizes, kinds of paint, kinds of drawing tools...</p>