



# COLORS



Many children are in the process of learning colors. You can ask questions about the colors they are wearing, their favorite colors, the colors of their rooms, etc. Talk about how colors change when they are mixed or blended together.



## 3D Color Art

Card stock

Rimmed baking sheet

White glue

Salt

Colored water

Eyedropper

**Colored Water:** Use 5 drops of neon food coloring per tablespoon of water

1. Set the card stock on the baking sheet and have your child use the glue to draw a design on the paper.
2. Sprinkle the wet glue with salt until it's completely covered, then tap off any excess.
3. Have your child use the eyedropper to drip colored water, one drop at a time, onto the salt. As the salt absorbs the liquid, the water will move along the glue lines, resulting in a wonderful web of color.
4. Be sure to watch (and talk about!) what happens when the color reaches intersecting lines.

## Mess-free finger painting

Red, Yellow & Blue Paint, Ziplock freezer bag, white paper & Tape

Squirt two primary colors into each of the three Ziplock freezer bags, put a white piece of paper under them, and tape the whole thing down with painter's tape. Then let your child have at it!

First experiment with each bag to see what new color was made when mixing the two primary colors together. Then draw pictures, make handprints, and drive cars over the paint to see the tire tracks.

\*This project is a great project for children learning to write.



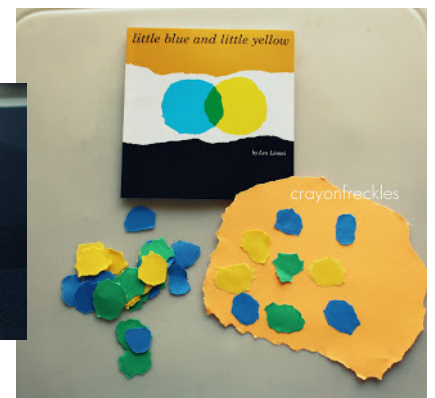
## Little blue and little yellow

Explore how colors mix using the book

little blue and little yellow by Leo Lionni (available at the library)

After reading the book, have your child make a blue and yellow picture using scraps of construction paper torn into circles.

Experiment by mixing yellow and blue food coloring to see what happens. Mix the food dye with water, milk, yogurt or vanilla pudding.



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This project has been partially funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

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It is normal for children to have difficulty learning their colors or they mix them up. Stanford University conducted tests of 2 and 3 year-old children and found the great majority failed a basic color test.

These researchers found that adults saying the color word after nouns made it easier and faster for children to learn colors. Instead of saying “the red balloon,” say “the balloon that is *red*.”

It is, also, important to point out the different shades, hues, and tints. Make up names for these colors together, such as “lemon yellow” or “apple red.” You will be helping your child use color as a means for creative thinking and language.

## Color Sorting Bags/Scavenger Hunt

We're goin' on a color hunt...we're gonna catch a **rainbow**!

Use colored bags, boxes, bowls...If you don't have any of these, put a piece of construction paper onto a plain gift bag. Tape the name of the color onto the bag.

For younger children, focus on one color at a time. Have your child find small objects around the house to put in their bags. For older children, who know their colors pretty well give them a few colors at a time. Hunt from room to room looking for items that both matched and would fit in the bags.

After the bags are full talk to your child about what objects they put in the bags. You can talk about the different color variations, too.

This activity will teach your child to identify items by color and size. It is also a “fun” clean up activity.



## Color Macaroni - Color your own macaroni for jewelry or for other color crafts.

1 cup pasta per color      2 TBSP rubbing alcohol      2-3 drops food coloring

Place rubbing alcohol and coloring in a Ziploc sandwich bag. Mix together. Add in pasta and shake to coat well. Repeat with each color. Drain off excess liquid. Place on a foil lined cookie sheet and allow to dry for one hour (I let mine dry overnight).



## Color Matching with Star Stickers – Great for fine motor skills

Draw some small dots on a piece of white paper in a variety of colors.

Give your child a sheet of star stickers and let them match up the colors.



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Encourage your child to use descriptive language as they tell you how one blue is different from another. "That blue is dark like the ocean and this one is light like the sky."

Noticing color is a way children observe and categorize what they see. Their mind notices and identifies the green trees, brown rectangle buildings, square windows, and blue sky. These characteristics encourage children to define and organize the diverse world around them.

## Outdoor Color Find – for older children

Paint chips, wallpaper samples, or pieces of color paper cut in various shapes

Challenge your child to walk outside and find colors or shapes or textures in nature that match their paint chips or other selected color/shape choices. Take pictures with a digital camera to document the findings or write down what you see for your child in a notebook. When you get home print out the pictures, or have your child draw pictures of what you saw. Put these pictures together for a color book. Write the color you were looking at in big letters across the top of the page.

## Fizzing Colors

A box of baking soda	1-2 cups of white vinegar
Food coloring	Cake pan or similar container
Muffin tin or an ice cube tray	Eye droppers or pipettes

1. Fill the muffin tins half full with the vinegar, and tint each cup with a different color of food coloring. Leave one clear so kids can mix a custom color.
2. Pour one box of baking soda into a cake pan for each child. Smooth out.
3. Spread an old towel on the table (or do it outside) and put the pan, muffin tin and eye droppers on it.
4. Show kids how to squeeze the eye droppers in the colored vinegar to fill them up, then have them drizzle and drop it on the baking soda to watch what happens.

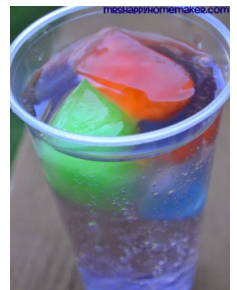


**Science info:** Want to know why baking soda and vinegar bubble up? Explain to your child that carbon dioxide is released when acids (like vinegar) and bases (like baking soda) combine and react to each other. Tell your child this is what happens when you bake cakes and breads. They rise by either using yeast or relying on the same reaction with ingredients like baking soda and buttermilk.

## Magic Potion

Different colors/flavors of KoolAid.

Make the KoolAid according to package directions & pour some of it into ice trays (a different ice tray for each color) and put the trays into the freezer. After the KoolAid is frozen take out, and put into a glass with lemon-lime soda. As the ice cubes melt, the 'potion' will turn cool colors & change flavors too!



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Being able to recognize the similarities and differences between colors, uses the same skills needed to identify the differences between letters and numerals.

When young children are asked to mathematically sort objects (such as leaves, rocks, shells, or keys) they usually use the most obvious attributes of color, plus size and shape, to categorize the items. When your child plays, he uses sorting and classifying skills as he observes similarities and differences of color, makes comparisons, and organizes this information into piles.

**The Color Match Game** – Great for matching, small motor skills and hand-eye coordination!

Paint Chips (2 of each color), clothespins and a piece of poster board

1. Glue paint chip pieces around the edge of the poster board.
2. Glue corresponding paint chip pieces to clothes pins.
3. Have your child match the colors



\*\*If you have younger children, make sure you choose colors that are really different from each other.

**Matching Color Shades** – Variation on project above for older children

2 sheets of each paint sample card

Clothespins                      Scissors                      Glue

1. Separate the paint sample cards into 2 identical piles.
2. Using only the first pile, cut small rectangles of each shade from the paint sample cards. Glue each rectangle onto a separate clothespin.
3. Choose one paint strip and separate out the colored clothespins that match it. Present your child with the selected paint strip and matching clothespins. Choose one of the clothespins and hold it next to color at the top of the paint strip.
4. Model your thinking by saying, “Do these shades match?” and then “No, the shades don’t match. I think this one is darker...” or “Yes, these match!” – If the shades don’t match, move the clothespin down to the next darker color and ponder over whether they match or not. Invite your child to give you an opinion. Keep going until you reach the matching shade.
5. When you reach the matching shade, say, “These shades match!” and deliberately show your tot how to press the ends of the clothespin to open it, slide it onto the card, and release the clothespin to make it close.
6. Select a new clothespin and repeat the process. Hand the work over to your tot once they understand the activity.



\*\*You could draw symbols on the back of the clothespins and paint sample cards so your child can “check” their work.



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Until a baby is 4 months old, they see everything in black and white. At 4 months babies can see bright colors, and by 6 months they can see all color variations including pinks and light blues.

For children between 6 and 18 months – the concept of visually noticing differences (colors) is an important step in noticing the difference in letter formations, which they will need when they begin to read. You can begin this process by pointing out similarities and differences in colors.

## Color match – babies and toddlers

1. Take 6 to 8 color swatches and mix them up. Say “Watch”
2. Slowly and deliberately put two of the same color by each other. Continue with all colors. Make sure your baby is watching.
3. Remix the colors, and put one color by your baby. “Say now it’s your turn” Wait to see if your baby can match the colors.
4. Coach if necessary by directing your baby’s hand to the correct color. Continue until all the matches are made.
5. Mix them up again. Take a color and say “Find the \_\_\_\_ one.”

\*After playing this way a few times, cut your child’s favorite shape into one of the swatches.

\*\*Helps with pattern matching which is necessary for indentifying letters, numbers and symbols needed for both reading and math.



## Terrific Toast

Bread      Food Dye      Eyedropper

Take a piece of bread and place it on a cookie sheet. Fill a few small cups with about 1/2 inch of milk. Add a few drops of food coloring to the milk. Make as many different colors as you like. Use an eyedropper to model for your child how to fill it with the milk. Say the names of the colors as you discuss and do the activity. Allow your child to drop dots of color onto the bread. Put the “painted bread” into the toaster and enjoy.



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Toddlers love looking at picture books of objects organized by shape and color. Start by asking him to identify things nonverbally; say, "Can you show me the red square?" and let him point to it. As he begins to learn the names of the colors, you can reverse the game, pointing to objects yourself and asking, "What color is this triangle?" Either way, he'll delight in showing off his knowledge. When he's wrong, don't correct him (or pretend he's right) but instead say the correct name in an encouraging tone.

## Sorting Colors with Cardboard Rolls

Cardboard rolls      Paint      Pom Poms (or other small objects)  
Small bowls          Tape

1. Paint the cardboard rolls and allow them to dry.
2. Arrange the small bowls out along a wall or glass sliding door and set up the colored pompoms in a small tray. The cardboard rolls are stuck to the window using double sided masking tape.

During the activity, talk to your child, and reinforce the different colors and their pronunciation.

\*\*At the beginning of the activity place a couple of pompoms in the bowl underneath the matching colored rolls to support the learning.



## Toilet Paper Roll Book (with pull tabs)

Toilet paper tubes      Colored paper      Glue      2 binder rings  
Scissors                      Multicolored file tab dividers



1. Flatten toilet paper roll and place underneath a heavy object overnight.
2. Cut pieces of paper to be the same width as the toilet paper roll.
3. Use a glue stick to glue the paper over the flattened toilet paper roll.
4. Take your file tab dividers and cut the width to fit inside the toilet paper tube with the divider in the center.
5. Punch 2 holes in each covered toilet paper roll.
6. Attach the binder rings.
7. Measure the length of the tab dividers to fit inside. Cut.
8. Write the names of the color on a mailing label or piece of paper that you glue onto the covered toilet paper roll.
9. Glue pictures of things in the corresponding color onto the divider tab paper.



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