

BEYOND

SIDEWALK CHALK

by Diane Quiroga, MA, ATR-BC

No. 1 BALLOON PRINTING

What you'll need: Balloons, paint, and mural paper. You can't go wrong with balloons and paint—a total kid-approved activity. First, you'll need to blow up and knot several balloons in various sizes. Next, have your child use their fingers to grasp the knot on the balloon (fine motor skills!) and press the balloon top right into a plate of paint. Your child can push repeatedly onto the flat paper surface, either on the ground or taped up on a wall, and alternating between paint and paper. Feel free to incorporate a lesson on mixing colors while the fun ensues!



Summer is in the air and all you've got for some artsy outdoor fun is a box of sidewalk chalk. If this picture has you yearning for some unique summer ideas, don't fret. You are about to be presented with several creative summer ideas to get you all kinds of creative outdoors! (*Note: The end of this article will let you know where to find the materials mentioned).

No. 2 EARTH ART

What you'll need: Mother Nature's finds, Sticky Collage Board Shapes or Paper and Glue. Summer weather creates a great opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and incorporate nature into art making. Take a nature walk and collect all types of items such as rocks, leaves, and twigs. You can either place these items on paper with glue, or avoid the glue altogether by using a collage sticky board. Using these items to create a nature collage just might bring your child in touch with the beauty of nature and exploration outdoors, while making their own art at the same time!



No. 3 BUBBLE BLASTING

What you'll need: Super Miracle Bubbles Premium Plus Bubble Blitz Blasters OR Bubble Wands, Crayola Outdoor Colored Bubbles, and mural paper. This is one of my all-time favorite art activities because it's the art-child of bubbles and paint. Bubble Blasters (those battery-operated hand-held bubble machines) only require that your child be able to press a small green button in order to blow bubbles. You can also use regular bubble wands for this activity. Place the wand portion into a shallow dish of the colorful soapy liquid and direct it towards the paper on the ground. The grand finale? Press the green button or blow into the wand aaannndd.... Voila! Colored bubbles will be floating, bursting, and creating swirly images and splatters that will surely mesmerize your kids. (*Warning* Bubbles are to be used outdoors ONLY. Please read warning label regarding staining and be sure to wear your smocks!)





No. 4 CLOUD ART

What you'll need: A sky full of clouds, drawing supplies or finger paint, and paper. Clouds certainly make an appearance in the summer time—and they can be a great way for your child's imagination to roam free while stimulating their creativity! Pick a nice grassy spot, bring a blanket, and lie outside. Have your child talk about what they see or identify in the clouds and then have fun using finger paint or drawing materials to recreate the imagery and formulations they've found!

No. 5 WATERCOLOR SQUIRTING

What you'll need: Colorations Liquid Watercolors, spray bottles, and Jumbo Finger Paint Paper Shapes or mural paper. Contrary to popular belief, watercolors don't just come in that 8-color set anymore— you can actually purchase watercolors in liquid form! Make sure you have several spray bottles as each bottle will be used for an individual color. Fill one third of each spray bottle with a different shade of liquid watercolor, and dilute it with two-thirds water. Go ahead and place the paper on the ground or up on a wall, and spray away! Colors will mix on the image and your child will practice spraying, as well as learn a whole new way to watercolor!



No. 6 VROOM ART

What you'll need: Plastic toy cars, paint, and mural paper (which can be substituted with smaller paper for table-top indoor fun on a rainy day). Have a child who just loves to watch the wheels on their cars go round and round? Sometimes incorporating a child's favorite toy into an art activity adds another level of fun that they didn't even think existed! Pick up a plastic car with big wheels, roll the wheels around in paint, and it's time for a race! Enjoy creating tire prints and speeding around while creating a fun masterpiece at the same time.



No. 7 BASTER ART

What you'll need: Turkey basters, paint or liquid watercolors, mural paper or canvas. Think Jackson Pollock meets your backyard. Lay down a large sheet of mural paper or canvas, and go ahead and let your child use the baster to suction in some paint or liquid watercolors. Using fine motor skills to squeeze the rubber grip top on the baster will release the paint or liquid watercolors to create a splatterrific work of art!

Fact: Your next sunny day will be full of fresh air, creativity, and fun! Enjoy!



Diane Quiroga, MA, ATR-BC, is currently listening to art all over New Jersey as a Mental Health Consultant / Child Counselor / Registered and Board Certified Art Therapist. She provides services at the East Orange Child Development Corporation and at Sensory Kids, LLC in Jersey City. She is also an Art Therapist at the Arc Kohler School in Mountainside. Diane is available for consultations and private practice at her office in Livingston, NJ.

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Here's where you can get everything you will need:

Super Miracle Bubbles Premium Plus Bubble Blitz Blasters
Michael's Arts and Craft Stores, Toys R' Us

Crayola Outdoor Colored Bubbles
A.C. Moore and Michael's Arts and Crafts Stores
Toys R' Us, Amazon.com, CrayolaStore.com

Spray Bottles, Mural Paper, Butcher Block Paper
Local beauty stores or Discount School Supply
www.DiscountSchoolSupply.com
www.LakeshoreLearning.com, www.SaxArts.com

Colorations Liquid Watercolors, Jumbo Finger Paint Paper Shapes, Collage Board Shapes
www.DiscountSchoolSupply.com