

Art Media & Skills for Early Learning

1. Writing/drawing utensils—crayons, markers, pencils, colored pencils, lipstick and stamp pads if you dare, glitter glue, glitter and glue, water colors, finger paints, chalk on sidewalks or dark colored paper or chalkboards (novel idea), wet feet and hands on the driveway (or make salt dough, clay, or paint hand/foot prints as keepsakes—kids will love looking back at the size their hands and feet used to be), fingerprints make great leaves (among other things) ...
2. Stickers, stamps, stencils, cookie cutters . . . you can help them trace around almost anything . . . trace a glass to make a snowman (or 3 different size glasses), a plate/bowl/cake pan to make pumpkins or faces or masks . . . coins to make the eyes for the faces, triangle shaped block for the nose, etc.
3. Cookie dough, pie dough, noodle dough, bread dough, salt dough, play dough, clay . . . (don't forget kitchen math & science as you make the dough)
4. Draw in salt/flour or sand on a tray/plate/platter, a beach, a sandbox (you can make one for littlest ones with an under-the-bed bin--lid to keep animals out--or kiddie pool) . . .
5. Paper—construction paper, plain white paper, lined or graph paper, wrapping paper, craft paper, cardstock, cardboard from cereal boxes or clothes packaging, cheap white paper plates for all kinds of things . . .
6. Fabrics & felt, yarn & string/cord, foil, sandpaper to make a beach scene (if you cut it, use scissors you don't care about) . . .
7. Collages—ads, can labels, magazine and calendar pictures, popcorn popping on the apricot tree (glue popcorn on a tree figure—can be as simple as a brown rectangle trunk, optional branches can be skinnier brown rectangle pieces), various beans/legumes/seeds & macaroni . . . You can print simple outlines of things from the internet (shapes, animals, clothes, foods, food or food chain pyramids, the shape of your state...)
8. All sorts of things from the craft isles or store . . .
9. Decorate eggs, rocks, boards, cheap white T-shirts, . . .
10. Puppets—paper bag, a character on a popsicle stick, socks, felt or fabric . . .
11. Use big boxes to create houses, forts, boats & other vehicles, check stand counters, a box for Jack (or Jill) to jump out of when you get to a certain part of the song . . . decorate/design them with media above . . . Little boxes can be made into car town buildings or dollie furnishings . . .
12. Dress-up: 2nd hand clothes, paper bags, homemade creations with fabric/old clothes...

Skills to work on (a lot of adult help for 2-3 year olds . . .)

1. Fine motor control as a foundation for writing
2. Using scissors (hold the paper for little ones, and you can even kind of steer it for them until they get the hang of it/their coordination improves—no pressure, just joyful help)
3. Controlling glue (just a dot!)
4. Picking up small items, such as coins, beans,
5. Controlling yarn, string, and rope (tying shoes—or something else--before Kindergarten is still useful)