10+1 Art ideas

Art is such a great way to encourage creativity in your child. It also works on other skills like pattern recognition, fine motor, and knowledge of colors. Here are some ideas on how to make art in a different way.

1. **Painting ideas**: when your child paints, it doesn’t have to just be with a paint brush. Children enjoy painting with sponges, q tips, toothbrushes, cotton balls, toy cars, and much more. See what you have at home to paint with. Different items add different textures to the work of art.
2. **Beans**: you can get different colored beans at the dollar store. Glue the beans to paper or card board to make a textured collage.
3. **Tape 3 crayons or paintbrushes together**: if you tape 3 crayons or paintbrushes together you get a really neat color scheme as children color.
4. **Scribble crayons**: you will need broken crayons and a muffin tin (preferably non stick). Put some broken crayons in the muffin tin. Melt them in the oven (150 degrees) for 15 minutes. Let them cool in the oven. Then pop them out to use. You just made your own crayons.
5. **White crayon/oil pastel and water color paint**: take the white crayon or pastel. Color on paper however you want. Then take the water color and paint over the crayon. Wherever you put the crayon will be white instead of colored with the water color paint. You could also try different colored crayons.
6. **Window paint**: you will need dish soap, washable paint, flour, a container, and something to mix the paint. Mix equal parts dish soap and paint in the container. Then add flour to make the paint as thick as you would like. After that you can pain on your windows. If you want to wash the paint off yourself just use a garden hose or water.
7. **Salt painting**: you will need liquid glue, salt, paper, paint brushes, and food coloring (add water to the food coloring so that you don’t use as much). Take your paper and put glue on it in different shapes and patterns. Sprinkle salt over the glue. Tip the paper to let some of the salt fall off. Take the food coloring (mixed with water) and the paint brush and drip the food coloring onto the salt. The food coloring will move across the salt by itself.
8. **Nature collages**: go outside and pick up different things from nature like leaves, sticks, flowers, etc. Use glue to make a collage on a piece of paper.
9. **Marble painting**: you will need a big cake or cookie pan (big enough for your paper to fit in), paper, paint, and marbles. Put the paper into the cookie or cake pan (if it slides around you may need to put a bit of tape down to make it stay). Now, you can dip the marbles in paint and put them on the paper; or put paint on the paper and marbles in the pan then slide the pan around to make the marbles paint the paper.
10. **String painting**: for this you will need a string, paint, and paper (optional a paintbrush). Dip the string into paint and use the string to paint the paper. It can make a lot of neat patterns and designs. If you want to try something different, attach the paintbrush to the string, dip the brush into paint, then hold the brush over the paper and let the paint drip onto the paper. It is a different way to paint!
11. **Sidewalk paint**: To make sidewalk paint you will need cornstarch, water, food coloring, a sectioned container (muffin tin), 1/8 cup, a tablespoon, and a spoon or whisk to mix. Put 1/8 cup water in each section of the container. Add the food coloring color you want to each section. Add 1 tablespoon cornstarch to each section and stir. Add another tablespoon cornstarch to each section and stir. Add 1 more tablespoon cornstarch and stir. If you add all of the 3 tablespoons at the same time the mixture will be too thick to stir. If needed, add more cornstarch. You want the mixture to be somewhere between a liquid and a solid. Then go outside and paint! (if the mixture gets too thick as you are painting add more water).

We hope that these art ideas help you and your child’s creativity grow!