

Fabric Painting

Fabric painting is an excellent group activity for all ages from early years to teenagers when done on a large scale. Create a beautiful jungle scene to brighten your centre or choose a seasonal theme - a Halloween banner or a backdrop for a Christmas play.

Fabric painting provides an opportunity to explore the use of a wide range of paints and techniques but it is important to remember that if the project is for outdoor use, or if you plan to wash it, you must use paint specifically designed for fabric.



You will need

Cotton fabric - available free from the scrap store

Fabric paints, poster paints and acrylic paints in the following range of colours:

Primary colours -

red, blue and yellow, with white and black

Mixing other colours (secondary)

Brown red & black or green & red

Purple blue & red

Green blue & yellow

Pink red & white

Grey black & white

Tulip fabric paints - good for painting outlines and highlighting detail

Paint brushes - a ranges of sizes from large to small

Hoghair paint brushes - produce strong brush marks and are easy for young children to hold

Synthetic brushes - good for fine detail

Sponge applicators - good for applying paint quickly to large areas

Printers and stencils - useful for creating repeat patterns

Pencils - outlining the design before painting

1. Once you have decided upon a theme, gather pictures from magazines or download them from the internet as a source of inspiration.



Tip: Do a rough sketch on paper before drawing the design lightly with a pencil onto fabric.



3. Fill in large areas of the design using a hoghair or household paint brush or a sponge.



4. Greater care can be taken when filling in the detail of the picture using a small paint brush.



5. Paint applied as a solid block of colour to the foreground elements will help them stand out.

7. Background areas can be filled in quickly using a mixture of paint and water applied freely. Varying the depth and tonal range of the background colour will create atmosphere and movement particularly good when painting sea and sky.



8. Highlight the fine detail and outlines of the picture using relief paint such as tulip paint or glitter glue.



9. Experiment with printing techniques using stampers and stencils to produce repeat patterns.

