

Face Painting for Beginners

The pictures used for this craft sheet are from Stacey Kilpatrick's demonstrations and include the work of the participants that attended her Face Painting workshop at Play Resource.

Health and Safety

- Always use professional paints and products as recommended by FACE, www.facepaint.co.uk.



- Do not paint a child with a cold sore or any other apparent skin disease.
- Use clean utensils. Wash containers, brushes and sponges thoroughly after each session. Try to keep them clean during the session.
- Change brush water frequently.
- Be extra careful when painting near the eyes, especially on very young children and those unable to keep still.
- Clean any dirt or food from a child's face before starting. Look out for runny noses!
- Do not add disinfectant to the water as the paint already contains agents which act against yeast, mould and bacteria.
- It is essential that you have your own public liability insurance or that you are covered by the policy of the company you are working for.
- It is recommended not to paint a child under 3 years of age.

You will need

Grimace starter palette is a good buy (available for purchase from Play Resource). It includes blue, black, yellow, red, white and green. An individual orange is also useful if you are planning to paint a tiger face.



Provide all face painters with their own palette and brushes at least one thick and one thin.

Synthetic brushes size 4 and 8 - good for painting details.

Make-up sponges for applying a base coat and face wipes for removing face paint.

Spray bottle for adding water to sponge.

Mirror for children to see the results.

Face painting book for inspiration.



Tips for Painting

Practice painting on your arm before working on a child. Apply a base coat using a sponge that has been sprayed with water so it isn't too wet.



Rub it lightly in circles over the paint then dab it gently with a twist of the wrist onto the face.



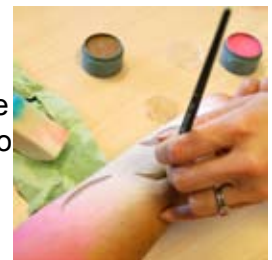
Brush Control

Wet the brush before loading it with paint. Hold the brush close to the bristles, practice making thick lines by laying the bristles flat on the skin, pressing as you draw the brush forward. Thin lines are produced using the tip of the brush.



Produce a tear-drop stroke with the tip of the brush pulled into a broader stroke in one movement.

Rest your little finger lightly to give an even stroke.



Fairy Princess

Fairy Princess is an easy face to start with needing just two colours - white and pink.

1. Use a make-up sponge to paint a white base coat evenly all over. Dab the paint lightly into the creases of the nose. Paint the hardest side of the face first, if you right handed this is usually the left. Ask the model to close her eyes to paint the eye lids and to look up when painting under the eyes.



2. Work from the top down with pink on a fine brush paint the eyelids. Sweep a curl up to the forehead and another out from the eyes towards the top of the ear.



3. Paint little hearts down the cheeks and give each a highlight of white before painting the lips pink.



Painting Children

The pictures used this section are from other demonstrations of Face Painting at Play Resource.

1. It is important that you and the child you are painting are sitting comfortably.
2. Put face paint, water and brushes on a table near your painting hand.
3. Sit close, facing the child and position your knees outside theirs. Bring the child forward and let them rest their hands on your knees for steadiness.
4. Keep hands clean and dry and make sure the child's face is clean and dry before starting to paint.
5. Clip back any hair that falls over the face.
6. Place your free hand lightly on the head to keep it steady and allow you to move it from side to side when painting.
7. Have a bowl of soapy water to clean brushes between faces.
8. Provide a mirror for children to see the results.
9. Sketch three or four faces to give children a range of faces from which to choose.



Spiderman

Spiderman face uses only red, white and black paint. Use markings to suggest the spiders web, they don't have to be too detailed. The connecting lines are represented by two vertical lines. The cross lines of the web are represented by curved lines kept relatively uniform.



1. Sponge white around the both eyes.



2. Apply a base coat of red to the rest of the face.



3. Using black paint a heavy outline around the white areas.



4. Add connector lines running vertically up to the hairline and down to the jaw line.



5. Paint cross lines as simple curved lines branching from the connector lines into a point.



6. For added impact highlight black lines with white.

Tiger

Animal faces suit boys and girls. Good subjects for painting are dogs, large cats, domestic cats, seals and rabbits. We recommend starting with a tiger face. You will need yellow, orange and black paint. Use simple markings to suggest tiger features, don't try to be too accurate.



1. Sponge white around the eye lid, above the mouth and around the chin to form the muzzle.



2. Add yellow down the centre of the face and orange around the outer parts of the forehead, cheeks and chin. Blend the edges of the colours together.



3. Paint a line around the eyebrows sweeping it up towards the forehead and then curving it down into the corner of the eye and out towards the ear.



4. Paint the nose black, smudging the edge towards the bridge of the nose. Paint a black strip down from the nose and into the lips.



5. Paint the black marking around the forehead, cheeks and chin. Don't try and be too accurate.

6. Paint little dots where the whiskers would be on the muzzle.