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Kids art :: exploring texture

06/04/2013 BY [CATHY JAMES](#) — 5 COMMENTS

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Here's a kids art idea that you can try at home using recycled items that you'd otherwise throw away – we're up-cycling and exploring texture to make touchy feeling patchwork pictures.



Kids art : exploring texture

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We started off with some big pieces of strong card, packaging from a book delivery. It's really nice sometimes to have a big space to use and as we're going to be painting over the texture pictures I wanted the children to have enough room to make big, wide strokes over the textured surface.



Then we hunted out some materials that had all sorts of different textures. Most of this came from our junk model box and collage papers, all recycled materials that we collect – a free supply of art materials!

We found corrugated card, tracing paper, wire mesh, bubble wrap, polystyrene pizza bases, sand paper, doilies, and plain paper.



It's great to find materials that have a strong contrast in texture, like the corrugated card and bubble wrap, but also interesting to include things with a close difference in texture, such as fine and course sandpaper. The children can handle all the materials and explore them with their fingers.



Then we started to cut out patchwork shapes to cover our boards...



and stick them on. We use glue sticks, which were strong enough to hold the materials in place without being so liquid that they distorted any of the finer papers. It also dried quickly, so we could add paint.

It's interesting to see the children decide which shapes to cut out and where to place them on their card. There's lots of mathematical language that can be encouraged if you chat about shapes, sizes, in the middle, at the top, behind, at the front...



We overlapped some of the materials to build up layers.



and the finished art was a glorious mix of textures that was as interesting for the fingers to explore as for the eyes.



Come back later this week and I'll show you what happened when we added paint.





Meet Matisse

Creativity Mentor art lessons for children NurtureStore

Creativity Mentors :: Meet Matisse art lessons for children

Colourful, creative, inspiring, innovative, brilliant and bold! Come and **Meet Matisse** and try out four art projects inspired by his work in my online workshop.

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Comments



Erin - The Usual Mayhem says



09/04/2013 at 2:12 pm

I love the end result! Like Mondrian, only better.

[Reply](#)



Cathy James says

09/04/2013 at 9:17 pm

Thank you Erin. Not sure Mondrian would agree!

[Reply](#)



liat says

06/04/2015 at 5:09 am

i love everything you show here great reactivities for children. they will have a lot of fun
i love it.

[Reply](#)



Andrea Werboff says

29/11/2016 at 11:04 pm

Hi,
What grade level is this, and can it be accomplished in one 50 minute class? I was thinking of it for first grade.
Also, what size approximately is the cardboard back?
Andrea

[Reply](#)



Cathy James says

30/11/2016 at 9:12 am

Hi Andrea. Process art like this can work across grades, but I would definitely think it a good choice for first grade. A 50 minute class should give your children good time to explore the materials and create their collage. The cardboard back was a section of Amazon packaging, so I'd guess less than half a cm thick? It just needs to be strong enough to withstand liberal amounts of glue! I hope your children enjoy their explorations. I'd love to see a photo of their finished work.

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