

Preschool Science: Watercolor Study



Learning Value:

This activity promotes learning and development by encouraging children to use scientific inquiry skills, experimentation, and observation.

Materials Needed:

- ▶ Paper
- ▶ Watercolor paint
- ▶ Paintbrushes
- ▶ Different types of salt

Participants:

This activity is intended for adult/child interaction.

Directions:

- ▶ **Step 1:** Encourage your child to paint with watercolors on a piece of paper.
- ▶ **Step 2:** While the paint is still wet, pour sprinkles of one type of salt onto the wet paint and set it aside to dry without adding anymore paint.
- ▶ **Step 3:** Repeat the first two steps, but this time use a different type of salt – kosher, rock salt, table salt, etc. Have your child write a label for each piece to show what kind of salt was used.
- ▶ **Step 4:** The salt will soak up the watercolor paint, leaving marks behind, but the various salts will absorb differently. Have your child examine the labeled paintings side-by-side once dry to compare the different results.

Learn More:

Watercolors will react with other materials in your kitchen as well. Your child can try leaving wadded up plastic wrap, paper towel, or even shapes cut from wax paper in pools of watercolor. Once dry, remove the materials and observe the results.