

Ice Painting

Painting with ice offers children both an artistic and sensory experience. Not only will children experiment with blending colors, drawing lines and creating designs, they will also investigate the transformation of ice into water in the process.

In The Wonder Cabinet:

Today's art project encourages children to explore color and ice as they create a work of art. Like traditional watercolor painting, children will have the opportunity to blend colors and to play with drawing lines, shapes, etc. However, unlike traditional watercolor, children will also have the opportunity to explore ice (how it feels, looks, and melts).

The process of painting promotes the use of fine motor skills and encourages children to make choices of color and placement. For younger children, it can also be an exploration of colors. They can name each color and watch as colors join to create new colors.

At Home:

Ice painting is a wonderful activity to do at home. It is easy for children to help make "ice brushes" by freezing water in ice cube trays, popsicle trays, or even a paper cup with a popsicle stick. You can use a variety of different materials to color the ice, ranging from food coloring, liquid watercolor, kool aid mix, or even a mixture of tempera paint and water.

Explore various ways of painting with uncolored ice. Have your child sprinkle Kool Aid powder or powder tempera paint on slippery paper. Then watch what happens as your child paints over the powder with melting ice. You can also try a combination of ice and washable markers. Encourage your child to draw on heavy paper with washable markers. Once she has finished, give her an "ice brush" and watch as her drawing is transformed into a stunning watercolor.