

Setting the Table:

Exploring Color



"Different colors can make you think about what you want your words to be..." Gray, age 5

Color!

The breadth and scope within the exploration of color is vast! ...and because of that, it also has the potential to provide endless surprises and inspiration for all of us, both for the children in our care, and for us, the adults in their lives. Exploring color within your classroom can wake up new connections and personal stories, highlight diverse emotions, ignite novel ideas and new worlds of innovation and theory making.

Materials List

- 4 white ice cube trays
 - Camel hair paint brushes
 - Set of 6, Colorations liquid watercolors
 - 3 sets, 6 color, tempera cakes
 - 18 glass tealight holders
 - Small round coffee filters
 - Watercolor paper
- *From the Starter Kit:
- Water Pitcher
 - Pipettes
 - White Blotter Napkins

Suggested Agreements:

After establishing where materials will live within the classroom, you should make agreements about their care and use.

- Keep each color in their “color home”
 - Mix on paper or in a your palette.
 - *The colors can meet on the paper. When they are in their house they don't play together.*
- When a brush gets thirsty, get it wet.
- *Dip, Wipe, Paint:*
 - *Dip* brush and clean, *Wipe* on blotter paper, choose color, *paint*
- Reset the space you worked in for your next classmate.

Tips and Variations:

After many sessions, letting children explore color mixing and the many colors of the world, you might consider asking children to use color mixing as a “thinking tool”.

Picture Book Suggestions:

- Mouse Paint, by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- Color Dance, by Ann Jonas
- Festival of Colors, by Sehgal
- Red is Best, by Kathy Stinson
- Green; Red; Blue, books by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- Little Blue and Little Yellow, by Leo Lionni
- Dog's Colorful Day, by Emma Dodd
- One, by Katheryn Otoshi
- Colors of Us, by Karen Katz
- Black Is a Rainbow Color, by Angela Joy

Finding My Color:

The “world” or “diversity” colors provided by name-brand marker and paint companies don't offer the range nor nuance of tones of the diverse population of children in our care.

Can we mix paint to create the colors of everyone in our community?

What are all the colors that live inside of your color?



The Feelings of Color:

Exploring feelings through the use of color can offer children a chance to reflect on their emotional selves. By sharing thinking in this way, children can grow their understanding of how their friends experience different emotions, imagining their perspective, and empathizing with them.

What does this color blue remind you of? How does it make you feel?

What are the colors of your happy? ...lonely? ...scared? ...frustrated? ...excited?

