Lots of Ideas for Painting

You can spend a whole year letting children explore with paint. Change the activities by letting children work with different papers, painting tools, and paints.

TRY DIFFERENT PAPERS
- poster papers of different colors, sizes, and shapes
- tissue papers of different colors, sizes, and shapes
- cardboard of different colors, sizes, and shapes
- newsprint
- Sunday newspaper comics (try painting them with water)
- wet and dry papers
- bubble wrap (great for finger painting)
- paper bags
- paper plates
- pizza boxes
- wall paper
- wax paper
- wrapping paper
- aluminum foil
- freezer paper

TRY DIFFERENT PAINTING TOOLS
- sponges
- twigs, sticks, or leaves
- dandelions
- pine tree branches
- grass
- eyedroppers
- cotton balls
- clean fly swatters
- old tooth brushes
- paint brushes (thin, thick, narrow, wide)
- popsicle sticks
- dish cleaners
- wire egg beaters
- vegetable and pastry brushes
- old dog toys
- rolling pins
- combs
- rubber balls
- squeeze bottles
- deodorant bottles
- ice cubes
- feathers
- plastic forks
- cotton swabs
- hair rollers
- coffee stir sticks
- corks
- toy cars and trucks
- kitchen tools
- body parts (elbows, fingers, noses, feet, knees, etc.)

TRY CHANGING THE PAINT
Add these to make different textures
- Add liquid soap to make paint sludgy
- Add salt or sugar to make paint sparkling
- Add corn syrup to make paint shiny and sticky
- Add flour to make paint lumpy
- Add sand to make paint bumpy

If you want to learn more about art and young children, call the Better Kid Care office (1-800-452-9108) to ask for the learn-at-home unit, “Using Art Materials.”

For more ideas on art projects, look for these books in your local county Cooperative Extension resource library:

Paint Without Brushes
by Liz and Dick Wilma

Don't Move the Muffin Tins
by Bev Bess