

Wee Printers —Making their mark in the world!

Print making is a wonderful way to learn shapes and colors. Experiment with different materials to print on and to print with. Let children discover the many shapes that different sides and angles of one object can make. Encourage children to experiment with different objects and colors. What happens when colors are mixed or shapes are printed on top of one another? Use the printed creations to make wall coverings, personalized cards and gift wrap.

Block Printing

Materials:

paper (scrap paper, shelf paper, tissue paper, construction paper)
 paints or inks (poster paints, finger paints, acrylics, ink pads)
 paint brushes or old tooth brushes
 shallow containers for paint (margarine tubs, foil pans, meat packing trays)
 work area covered with newspaper
 painting aprons or old button-down shirts

Objects to print with:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| half onion | sponge | erasers |
| half potato | coins | fork |
| carrot | soda can | match box |
| celery | spools | corks |
| citrus fruit | nuts/bolts | fingers |
| apple | toothbrush | buttons |
| fern leaf | potato masher | screws |
| pine branch | toothpaste cap | |
| corn cob | extract bottle | spice can |
| cookie cutters | wooden clothes pin | |

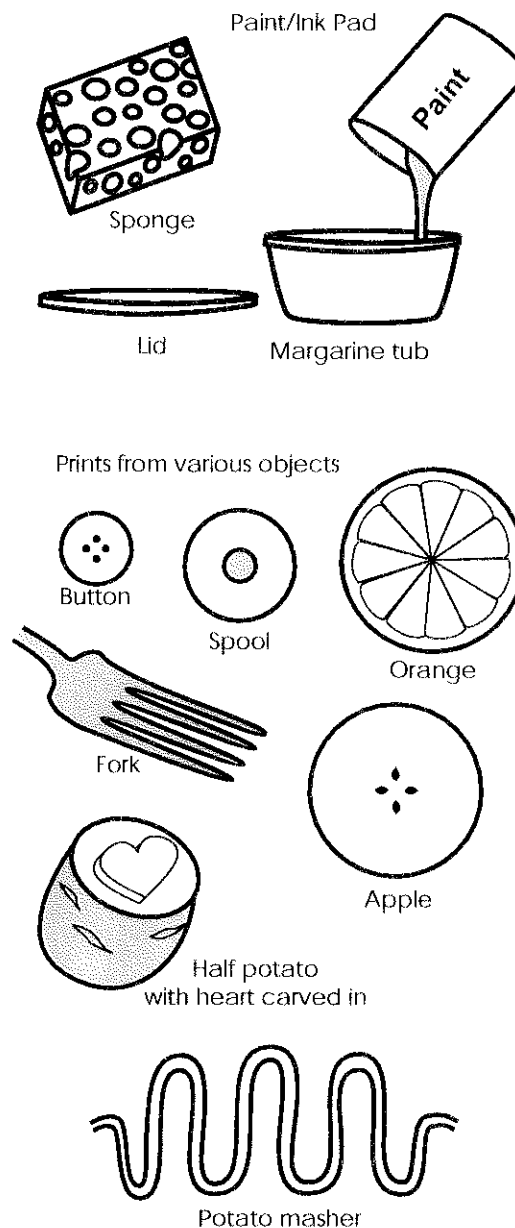
To make your own "ink" pads*:

1. Cut a piece of sponge to fit inside a small margarine tub or other small container with a lid.
2. Mix two parts poster paint with one part white glue. The glue makes the paint stick better to the printers and the paper.
3. Pour the mixture over the sponge and add a little extra in the container.

To print:

1. Ink objects by pressing them on the paint-filled sponge.
2. If the pad starts to dry out, add a little water to the container.
3. When you're done printing, cover the container with its lid a save until the next time you print.

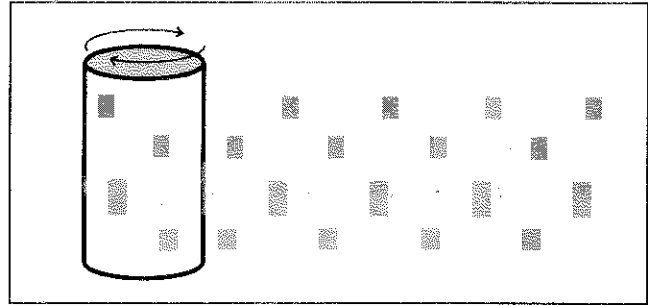
*Adapted from: **Toy Book** (see "Resources").



Roller Printing

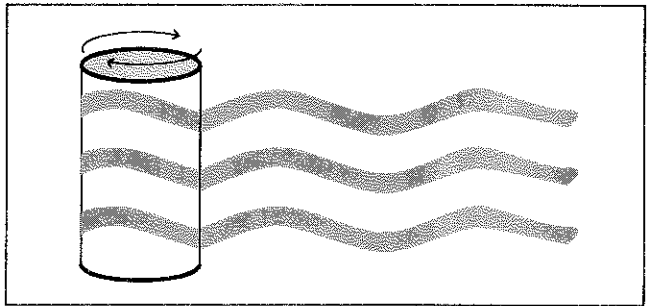
Materials:

rollers (paperboard juice cans, tin cans with their labels on, paperboard tubes) string, fabric scraps, rubber bands, etc.
poster paint
glue
cookie sheet or meat packing trays
paper to print on



Procedure:

1. Pour poster paint onto a cookie sheet or meat packing tray to spread paint thin.
2. Let children glue scraps of string, material or rubber pieces onto the roller.
3. When glue is dry, have children roll the roller through a thin layer of paint and then across a piece of paper to make a repeating pattern.



Polystyrene Printing

Materials:

polystyrene material (from egg-carton covers or meat packing trays)
scissors
pencil
ink pad
paper to print on
stencils or cookie cutters (optional)

Procedure:

1. Let children draw a simple shape with a pointed pencil on a flat piece of polystyrene. (If a more exact shape is desired, trace a stencil or cookie cutter onto the polystyrene surface.)

2. Help young children cut out the shape to make a stamp.

3. Children can etch a design into the stamp using a fingernail or pencil. Let them experiment making other designs using a fork, screw, bottle cap or the end of a straw.

4. Now the children are ready to print. Press the etched side of the stamp into the ink pad.

5. Place the inked side of the stamp down on paper, cover with a clean sheet of paper and press firmly.

6. This procedure can be repeated several times without having to re-ink the stamp each time.

