



Tuesday Art Play

Magic Painting

By Local Artist Andreia Pereira

Materials list:

- Smarties and/or food colorant
- Stretched canvas 15cm x 15cm
- Cotton buds
- Spray bottle containing water
- Recycled plastic container
- White petroleum jelly
- Paper towel

Smarties can be replaced by food colorants. Using smarties reveals a magic effect on the canvas that kids will love, food colorant can be used afterwards to reinforce the intensity of the smartie colours.

Activity Steps:

Step 1

Draw on canvas with the help of a cotton bud dipped in white petroleum jelly. We are looking for drawing lines with a similar effect to stained glass. It can be a mandala, a flower, a bird's wing, whatever you like!

After finishing your drawing, place in the plastic container the messy cotton bud you used to draw, so you can keep your table clean and tidy for now.

Step 2

Pick up the spray bottle containing water and spray/sprinkle on your canvas. You can see the petroleum jelly repels the water.

Now place your smarties inside the petroleum jelly lines. Place an amount of 2 or 3 smarties per space, then spray the canvas again with water from your spray bottle.

You will see the colours from the smarties start to spread throughout the canvas, and notice the colour stays inside the jelly petroleum lines.

Smarties are coated with sugar and food colorant which when in contact with water creates a release of watercolour effects. The petroleum jelly works as a repellent keeping the colours inside the lines.

Step 3

Soon the smarties are stripped of their colorant. When this occurs, you can remove them from the canvas.

Step 4 (optional)

To intensify the colours on canvas use cotton buds embedded in food colorant. It's a bonus for your canvas work.

Step 5

Leave the canvas to settle its colours for a few hours, then remove the excess water with a paper towel, which will then reveal your 'Magic Painting'.