

## Materials and Techniques

**Dear Helpers of young artists,**

Following is information to help you help your child create art for the Kids Imagine Our World art exhibit. Much of it may seem basic, so just find what you can to use.

You can also visit us for Open Studio, any Friday from June 15 to August 10, and you can use the supplies we have here.

RileyStreet Art Supply, at 1138 4th Street in San Rafael, will give parents and teachers a discount on materials when they mention this art exhibit when they purchase.

### Materials:

Paper: The heavier you choose, the richer the results of the finished project. Especially if your artist wants to paint or glue. A heavier paper will buckle less when wet substances are applied. Watercolor paper, or even light-colored cardboard from a cereal or cracker box, will work better than copier or notebook paper.

Unusual surfaces: Old book covers (if you are going to recycle them anyway) can be a great surface to draw and paint on! Also, uncoated cereal and cracker boxes can be a clean bright white or brown surface that takes wet paint well. You can even use the existing folds and turn your painting into a diorama!

Oil Pastels: They are like crayons, only they have a lot more pigment. This means that artists get darker, more intense colors. They blend very well also: try coloring on top of colors to make new ones.

Liquid Watercolors: Bottles come in many colors and may be used without adding water. Their colors are more intense and dye-like than traditional watercolors, and you can give your artist one or two colors at a time to keep the colors fresh and clear.

Tempera Cakes: These are solid blocks of water-based paint, which are very easy to use and also to clean up. We call them “Wake-Up Paints”: the more you swirl your wet brush on them, the more color wakes up! Artists can mix colors on the cakes or on the paper: the cakes are easy to wipe clean at the end of use.

Watercolor pan paints: Prangs are best, but teach young artists that they are meant to be watery: a few swipes with the brush will give you ample color, there's no need to scoop out the paint.

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Acrylic Paints: These paints are better for older artists: they dry permanent and will stain most clothing. The colors are very opaque and rich, and it's easy to mix them.

Paint Brushes: Choose one that comes to a nice point when it is dry: artists can make fine lines and fat ones depending on how much pressure is used. The brushes that come with paint sets are not usually very good. Ask for advice, but even for \$3-\$5 you can get a decent brush.

Markers: If you really want to use them, try Sharpies or Alcohol-based Copic markers. They have the most intense colors. Water-based children's markers fade quickly and have less pigment.

Glue: White school glue would be fine for a collage or for gluing any paper to paper. If you add cornstarch to it (in 1:1 ratio), the glue becomes stronger and thicker, and is great for building sculptures. It dries white, and is as strong as wood glue. "Yes Paste" is a waterbased paste that artists and book makers use because it always dries flat and is archival. We don't love glues sticks; they don't seem to stick as well.

## Techniques:

Collage: Gluing materials onto a base to create the image. Artists can use book pages, photographs, scraps of old drawings and paintings, words or pictures from magazines, whatever they want. Be sure to glue all the way to the edges of your pieces so that everything dries flat. You can also paint over the entire image with a thin layer of glue to make it more permanent.

Wax resist: Draw with oil pastels first, then paint with watercolors: The paint will not "stick" to the oil, so the drawing shows up very well, and artists can add more detail first.

Wet-into-Wet Painting: First, paint a section of your page with just water. Second, gently add dots of watercolor into the wet area. You get a very interesting tie dye effect.

Finishing with black lines: When the artwork is completely dry, go over the most important lines with black sharpie or oil pastel. This will make your work "pop".