

Open-ended Questions

1. What are you creating?
2. How did you get the idea for this picture?
3. What do you like about this picture?
4. What sort of noise might you hear if you rubbed the surface?
5. What do you like best?
6. What do you notice about your paint?

Expand Vocabulary

Squishy	Sponge	Big
Mix	Sticky	Bigger
Discover	Smooth	Biggest
Wavy	Create	More
Texture	Mix	Less
Stroke	Discover	Under
Feathery	Bumpy	Over
Fuzzy	Arrange	Line
Gritty	Combine	Curve
Goey	Decorate	Names of
Mushy	Materials	Shapes
Moist	Puffy	Collage
Water Color	Thin	3-D
Tempera	Thick	Bubbly
Paint	Coarse	Emphasized

Weaving in the Theme

“Children, it’s getting very close to summer. Today, we will make a picture that reminds us of this season.” Although the theme is given, there is no specified product. Children are free to use paint, crayons, markers, or clay to make their own versions of what summer means to them.

Introduce New Materials

“Today I put some spools and buttons near the easels and art table. I want you to look at them and think of how they might be used in art. Try out different ways of using them.” Children are free to use them as brushes, make a stamped impression, or paste them to a collage, as long as the rules for the art center are upheld.

Extend and Build

“I’ve noticed how much we enjoy easel painting with our long-handled brushes. I found these small tree branches outside and am leaving them at the easels. Let’s see if we could use them to paint with.” Or, “Let me show you another way of doing watercolor by first wetting your paper.” Or, “I see how much you enjoy your paper-bag puppet. If you like, I could show you how to sew one out of cloth.” Or, “Did you enjoy your paper weaving? Would you like to learn how to weave on a loom with yarn?”

Pose a Problem

“Let’s see how many different shapes we can cut out of paper for pasting.” Or, “How could we use these empty boxes and ribbon?” Or, “What will happen if we try painting on newspaper or the colored pages in this magazine?”