



ARTS PLUS

PAL at Home

Preschool Art Lab activities for families to make together

“Kandinsky Abstract”



For some art history, visit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wassily_Kandinsky

This activity is appropriate for ages 3 and up

Time from start to finish = 30-45 minutes depending on difficulty level or variation

You will need the following materials:

- Blank paper (preferably white but any color will do). The paper should be thick enough to withstand glue and/or paint
- Crayons
- Watercolor or acrylic paint (watercolor is preferable)
 - If you don't have paint, markers will work in a pinch
- A paintbrush
- A plastic cup or other round object
- Colorful paper (post-it notes or colorful wrapping paper will work)
- Scissors
- Gluestick (or liquid glue)

Brief project description:

For this project, children will use various materials and skills to create a one-of-a-kind Kandinsky inspired abstract artwork. This project uses various materials and has several steps to keep children engaged for a longer amount of time in a single artwork.

Steps

- #1: Lay out materials and prepare paint. If you're using watercolor make sure to have a cup of water ready. If you are using washable or acrylic paint, put paint in a container for your child to use.
 - #2: Have your child begin the artwork by drawing random lines on their paper using crayons. Prompt them to draw different kinds of lines such as straight, curvy, squiggly, or zig-zag using various colors. Encourage your child to draw lines that go across the entire page.
 - #3: After the crayon lines are complete, use the watercolor paint to add large areas of color on top of the crayon lines. Since the crayons contain wax, they will 'resist' the watercolor paint and show through. If you are using acrylic paint, it will cover the crayon lines, so use sparingly. If you don't have paint at home, markers will work much the same way as watercolor paint. Try to keep the watercolor from making the page too wet. You can use a paper towel to mop up any excess water.
 - #4: While the paint is drying, have your child use the plastic cup and either dip the cup into paint or paint the rim to create a circle stamp. Use this stamp to make circle prints on top of the first two layers of the artwork. Use various colors and encourage your child to make circle stamps on all parts of the page and circles that overlap.
 - #5: For the final step, use scissors and the colorful paper to cut out small interesting shapes. These can be triangles (the easiest shape to cut by snipping off corners of the paper), squares, or circles. For older children, have them cut a certain number of each shape or only in certain colors. If your child has difficulty with scissors, have them practice cutting the shapes but also allow them to tear out the shapes instead. Use the gluestick or liquid glue to attach the cut shapes to your artwork. Voila! You've created a piece of art in the style of Wassily Kandinsky!
- Any of these steps can be repeated or excluded based on the materials you have on hand!



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