



PAL at Home

Preschool Art Lab activities for families to make together

ARTS PLUS

“Marble Action Painting”

This activity is appropriate for ages 3 and up

Time from start to finish = 10 - 30 minutes depending on difficulty level or variation

You will need the following materials:

- Marbles
- Various colors of liquid paint, either tempera or acrylic
- Cookie sheet or a tray with a rim (even an old shoebox or box lid can work)
- Blank paper that fits within the cookie tray
- Small plates or bowls for the marbles
- Spoons

**These supplies will get paint on them so either make sure you use washable paint or select objects you don't mind getting messy.

Brief project description

- For this project, children will use marbles and cookie sheets to create interesting line paintings using gravity and the motion of their hands. This is a great activity to use to talk about kinetic energy and cause and effect relationships.

Steps

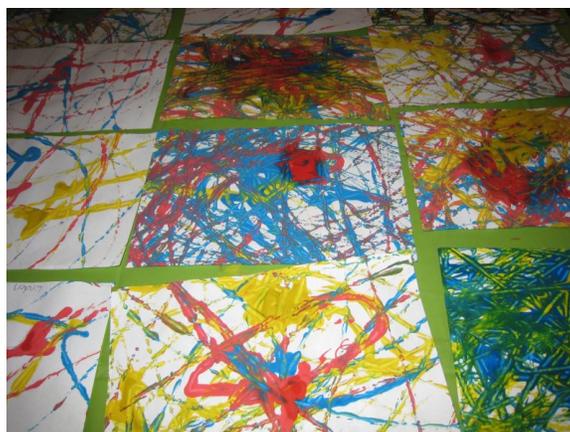
- **#1:** Place several marbles in different bowls and add a squeeze of paint to each bowl of marbles. Place a spoon in each bowl. Each bowl of marbles should have a different color of paint; use as many colors as you like. Place a sheet of paper onto the cookie sheet and make sure you cut it to fit within the rim of the cookie sheet (a tray with a rim works just as well).
- **#2:** Using a spoon have your child mix each set of marbles and paint together, completely coating the marbles with paint.
- **#3:** With the same spoons, allow your child to drop a few (3 or 4) marbles from the first bowl onto the paper on the cookie sheet. Work with just one color paint at a time.



- **#4:** Let your child gently pick up the cookie sheet and slowly start to move the tray back and forth and tilt it side to side. You are now using gravity and motion to make the marbles move around the tray. Watch as the trails of paint left by the marbles mark their paths.



- **#5:** Remove the first color of marbles and add a few more from another color. Repeat the same steps and create overlapping lines. You can repeat this step as often as necessary with as many colors as you like until you get a marble painting you're happy with!
- **#6:** To vary the activity, have your child practice tilting the tray with different motions to see how the marbles' paths change. You can also try moving the tray at different speeds, fast and slow.
- **#7:** After the papers dry, use them for collage material or for greeting cards! Practice creative social distancing old school and write letters on the back of a sheet and send it to your friends in the mail!



Share your “PAL at Home” projects on social media with the hashtag: #artspusathome