

## Crepe Paper Painting



In this activity, we experimented with crepe paper by dipping it into milk to paint. Before we could begin painting, we had to create the painting tool. First we choose a color of crepe paper (pink, blue, white, or black) to paint with. Then, we wrapped the crepe paper around a marker and used scissors to cut off the extra paper. From here, we removed the crepe paper from the marker, and held it together with a clothespin. When the tool had been created, we dipped the crepe paper into the milk, and used the tool to paint on their watercolor paper. As we painted, the color would “bleed” from of the crepe paper and onto our paper. When we used multiple colors, the colors would intermix and change.

The goal of this activity was to learn as we painted. To help guide the learning, I wanted children to be able to verbalize that the dye from the crepe paper is what colors the paper. Most children needed to think about activity in front of them before they understood that the color came from the crepe paper. The milk changed colors as they painted, and some initial theories were that the milk had food coloring in it. After reminding children that the milk was white before anyone began painting, they were more likely to understand that crepe paper dye is what colored the milk and their paper.



Children had different approaches to securing the clothespins. I wanted them to show that they could use two fingers to pinch the clothespin and have it securely in place on the crepe paper roll. When securing the crepe paper, most children used their whole hand to squeeze the clothespin open. When throwing away the wet crepe paper after they had finished painting, more children used two or three fingers to drop the crepe paper into the trashcan.

There were instruction cards on the table. Pictures and words illustrated the task, so that children would follow the cards for guidance as they proceeded through the activity. The children would look at the cards as they went through the steps to create their paintings.

Creative art is important for all children; it provides an outlet for expression. They can communicate emotions and feelings through their paintings and experiment with different mediums and ways of creation. Children practice fine motor skills when using coloring tools and gluing. They can share their creations with peers and adults, developing their ability verbalize what they are thinking. These experiences are crucial to young children and their developing minds.