

ARTS FOR ALL

Virtual Y Arts: Visual Art
YMCA OF PIERCE AND KITSAP COUNTIES



Straw Painting | Germs

Time: 20 minutes

Supplies/ Materials:

- Water color
- Paintbrush
- Straws (or make your own by rolling up a sheet of paper)
- Thick white paper
- Construction Paper
- Black Marker
- Glue Stick

Overview:

This art activity is great on its own, but if you want to make it educational, you can teach your child a little about germs before the project (see below)



Find this lesson on YouTube here:

youtu.be/iDVKcMFesBE

Instructions:

1. Pour your liquid watercolors into an art palette or paint cups.
2. Use a paintbrush to add a small puddle of paint onto the paper.
3. Place the straw about an inch away from the puddle. Use the straw to blow the paint blobs around in all directions. Try blowing down directly onto the puddle, blowing from the left and blowing from the right. See how many different shapes you can make with the watercolors.
4. Repeat step 3 with each of the colors.
5. Let the paint dry completely (ours took about 15 minutes; if you need these done quick, you can use a blow-dryer as well).
6. Cut circles from the white paper and glue them onto the blow paint germs.
7. Use a black marker to draw the eyes onto the germs.
8. With the black marker, draw lines coming out from the center of each germ. Paint small circles at the ends of these lines with a coordinating paint color.
9. Glue the white paper onto a piece of colored construction paper to finish it off.

Further Learning:

For very young kids who don't know what germs are, we recommend the book, *Germs Aren't For Sharing*. It doesn't go into great detail about germs, but it helps teach kids the basics and how to have good personal hygiene.

Older kids who want to learn more about microbes will love *The Bacteria Book*. It's loaded with tons of facts and goes into detail on topics such as bacteria, fungi, algae, viruses and more.