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Te waituhi | Painting

Painting is a way tamariki can explore colour, shape, form and texture. It supports and extends children's creative expression and non-verbal communication.

Tamariki will use different techniques to explore symbols and concepts from their own and others cultures. They will often paint what they know and feel rather than what they see, so it is important that adults let them paint in their own way. Painting allows tamariki to hone their gross and fine motor skills.

Links to Te Whāriki

Opportunities to experiment allow tamariki to be creative and express their feelings and ideas using a wide range of materials and modes (he kōrero auaha; **Communication | Mana reo**). Painting also supports the **Exploration | Mana aotūroa** strand, where tamariki gain confidence in and control of their own bodies, in particular, their fine motor skills. Painting can encourage tamariki to actively explore with all the senses while using tools, materials, and equipment to extend skills.



Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education



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Painting can help tamariki to:

- › use shape, form, and colour to express themselves
- › experiment with colour and texture
- › represent and explore ideas
- › show moods and feelings
- › show appreciation of a work of art
- › recognise the symbols, styles, and modes of their own and others cultures
- › develop hand, eye, arm, and body coordination
- › develop finger and hand muscles.

Adults can support tamariki by:

- › valuing their art work and treating it with respect
- › renewing paints and paper regularly and keeping the area tidy
- › Asking open-ended questions such as “would you like to tell me about your picture?”
- › naming and dating their work (in small tidy writing in a corner or on the back of the work)
- › having a list of children’s names in the art area so adults can make sure they are spelt correctly
- › making sure there’s a safe place to dry and display their work.

Providing for painting

Easels and tables being used for painting tend to be best in a quiet space away from the other resources. Have aprons or overalls available so clothes are covered. Painting can also happen in other places such as outside on paths, fences, or large cardboard boxes, and in association with carpentry or collage constructions. Painting is often thought of as an individual process but group painting is a lot of fun – try attaching a large strip of old wallpaper to a fence or place it on the ground and see what happens!

Ideas for painting resources

- › Paper, cardboard and fabric of all sizes, textures, and colours to paint on
- › A range of bright, clean colours and shades of colours to choose from
- › A range of painting implements such as short brushes for younger children, thick and thin brushes, sponges, rollers, leaves, pine cones, lids, objects of different shapes
- › Other surfaces or objects to paint on such as boxes, stones, wood offcuts
- › A range of different paints such as water colour palettes, non-toxic poster paint and watered-down food grade dye are the best, safe choices
- › Elei painting, where the children can paint a wooden stencilled plank. They can put the cloth over it and transfer the pattern to the cloth
- › Allow tamariki to explore by:
 - using the same colour(s) over and over again
 - mixing different colours together to see what happens
 - painting on different surfaces and textures, including their hands
- › Display paintings by famous artists – Māori, Pākehā, Pacific and others.