

THE *Budding* ARTIST



EDITED BY LAURA LAXTON

The Budding Artist

**Edited by Laura Laxton
Illustrations by Kathi Dery**

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Recommended Books

The children's books listed in "Books to Enjoy" may include books that are currently out of print.

These books can be purchased used or are most likely available in your local library.

Create Custom Chalk

Create your custom colors and make your mark!

What You'll Need

measuring spoons

paper cups

plaster of Paris

powdered tempera paint,
various colors

tongue depressors or
craft sticks

2 tablespoons water

Books to Enjoy

The Art Lesson
by Tomie dePaola

Chalk by Bill Thomson

A Piece of Chalk
by Jennifer A. Ericsson

The Red Chalk
by Iris van der Heide

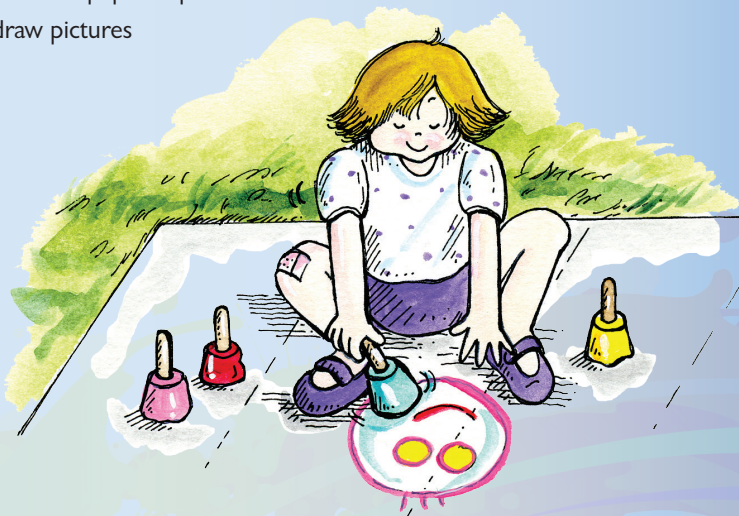
What to Do

- 1 Use a tongue depressor to mix 1 tablespoon tempera paint and 1 tablespoon water in a paper cup until the mixture is smooth.
- 2 Add 2 tablespoons plaster of Paris, and continue stirring. (If necessary, add additional plaster of Paris until the solution is creamy.)
- 3 Leave the tongue depressor in the cup to use as a handle.
- 4 Repeat steps 1–3 to make additional colors.
- 5 Locate a safe spot where the mixture won't be disturbed as it hardens. Carry the cup(s) to that location.
- 6 Allow the mixture to dry overnight or until it is very hard (about six hours).
- 7 Peel—or even rip!—off the paper cup.

Go outside, and draw pictures
using the chalk!

Try This!

Use the chalk to
practice writing your
name, letters, and
numbers.



Chalk-Scraping Prints

The same chalk dust that leaves smudges all over your clothes and hands can make swirly art prints. This activity is a good way to use up small and broken pieces of chalk.

What You'll Need

children's safety scissors

different colors of chalk
(sidewalk chalk works best)

newspapers

shallow pan of water

white paper (cut into shapes,
if desired)

Books to Enjoy

A Piece of Chalk
by Jennifer Ericsson

Sidewalk Chalk: Poems of the City
by Carole Boston Weatherford

What to Do

- 1 Prepare the area by spreading out newspapers, then fill the shallow pan with water.
- 2 Hold chalk over the water, and scrape it with scissors to create chalk dust, which will float on top of the water. (You may need adult help and guidance.)
- 3 Scrape the chalk until you have many colors of chalk dust floating on top of the water. Three or four colors usually make a pretty print.
- 4 Hold the paper, and place it gently on top of the water. Do not push it under!
- 5 Grasp two corners, and pick the paper up carefully. Look at the print. What happened? How did the chalk transfer from water to paper? Did the colors mingle at all, or did they overlap? How is the look created by chalk dust different from what paint would do?
- 6 Allow the print to dry. If you want to make more prints, you may need to scrape more chalk dust onto the surface of the water. (You may be able to make four or five prints before you need to change the water because it is filled with chalk dust. The dust drops to the bottom of the pan when you make a print.)



Fingerprint Creatures

Your fingerprint creations will be as unique as you are!

What You'll Need

paper

pen or pencil

washable-ink pads

Books to Enjoy

*Ed Emberley's Complete
Fingerprint Drawing Book*
by Ed Emberley

*Ed Emberley's Drawing Book of
Faces* by Ed Emberley

*Ed Emberley's Great Thumbprint
Drawing Book* by Ed Emberley

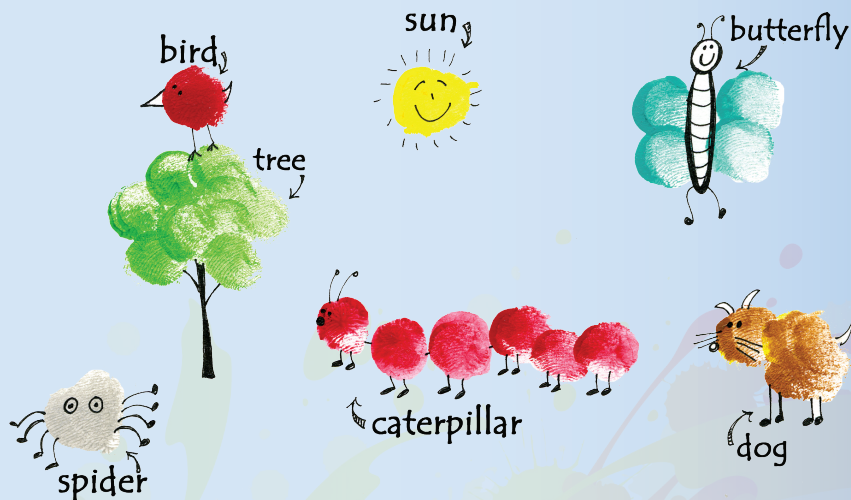
I Wish I Were a Butterfly
by James Howe

The Very Busy Spider
by Eric Carle

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle

What to Do

- 1 Set out the ink pads and paper, and use one finger to make fingerprints on the paper.
- 2 Think about the kinds of creatures that you could make from these fingerprints. For example, five or six fingerprints together form a caterpillar; four fingerprints form the wings of a butterfly; one fingerprint with legs makes a spider.
- 3 Use a pen or pencil to draw the details, such as legs and eyes.
- 4 Fire up your pointer finger, and see what else you can make!



Try This!

Make up a story about your drawings.

Jack Frost Pictures

Snow sparkling in the sunlight makes us think of fun cold-weather activities, such as sledding and building snowmen. With this technique, you can make sparkling winter scenes no matter what the weather!

What You'll Need

dark construction paper

Epsom salt

jar

paint cup

paintbrushes

water

Books to Enjoy

One Winter's Day
by M. Christina Butler

Winter Is the Warmest Season
by Lauren Stringer

What to Do

- 1 Put equal amounts of warm water and Epsom salt into a jar, and then stir the mixture until the Epsom salt dissolves.
- 2 Pour the mixture into a paint cup. (You may need adult help or guidance with this step.)
- 3 Paint a design on the dark paper with the Epsom-salt solution. What are you painting? Is it an object or a scene? Something you saw or something from your imagination? Can you make up a story about your painting?
- 4 Watch the paper as it dries. The design will whiten and begin to crystallize.



Try This!

Use wax crayons to draw a picture or design on dark paper (press heavily). Paint the Epsom-salt solution over the crayon design. As the solution dries, crystals will form on the paper wherever there is no crayon. This looks good with crayon drawings of winter scenes.

Invisible Drawing

Watch drawings appear before your eyes!

What You'll Need

candles (chunky white candles
are easy to use)

paintbrush

plain art paper

watercolor paints

Books to Enjoy

The following books are
illustrated beautifully with
watercolor paints:

Old Turtle by Douglas Wood

Seashells by the Seashore
by Marianne Berkes

Tuesday by David Weisner

What to Do

- 1 Use a candle to draw on a piece of art paper. Even though you cannot see your drawing now, you will later.
- 2 For this activity, the more wax the better, so press down hard. If little pieces of wax crumble and fall off, or if the candle breaks, don't worry.
- 3 Pick out two or three watercolors to paint on the paper, however you'd like. As you spread paint over the entire page, the secret designs and shapes you made with the candle will reveal themselves!
- 4 Hang your painting to dry.



Try This!

Try the same activity on fabric instead of paper. Tape the fabric to a table. As you draw with the candle on fabric, press hard, harder than on paper.

Crayon Etchings

Scratch the surface, and create a classic etching.

What You'll Need

crayons, in many colors,
including black

example of an etching from a
book or from the Internet

paper clips

white or light paper

Books to Enjoy

Beady Bear by Don Freeman

Lunch by Denise Fleming

A Rainbow of My Own
by Don Freeman

What to Do

- 1 Look at an example of a print.
- 2 Color a piece of paper with crayons, using any design. Use one color or many different colors.
- 3 Press hard as you color. Be sure to cover the entire surface of the paper.
- 4 When you are finished coloring your design on the paper, cover it completely with black crayon, again pressing very hard. What do you think the black layer is for?
- 5 Straighten a paper clip to form a point on one end (you may need help from an adult to do this).
- 6 Etch a design or picture in the black crayon using the paper clip. What are you drawing? Is it something real or something imagined? Did you know that the colors you used first would show through the black? What does this technique remind you of?

Try This!

Reverse the process: Fill the paper with black crayon first, and then cover the black crayon with colored crayons. Etch through the colored crayons to reveal the black crayon underneath.



Feather-Duster Painting

What does it look like when you paint with a feather duster instead of a paintbrush?
It's great when you paint something large and fluffy, like clouds.
But if you use an old duster, shake it out first!

What You'll Need

feather duster

large paper

liquid soap

liquid tempera paint

paint smock or old shirt

pie tins

Books to Enjoy

The Cloud Book
by Tomie dePaola

It Looks Like Spilt Milk
by Charles Shaw

What to Do

- 1 Pour tempera paint and a squirt of liquid soap into a pie tin. Swirl them together until the mixture is completely blended. (Use another tin and another feather duster for each color if you are painting with more than one color of paint.)
- 2 Dip a feather duster into the paint, and use the feather duster to create a design on a piece of paper.
- 3 Experiment with various techniques, such as dabbing, brushing, rolling, and slapping the feather duster on the paper. What designs can you create?
- 4 Try layering the colors, which produces a nice effect. Notice the colors and textures that appear.



Try This!

This painting technique is great for painting large objects, such as boxes, and for creating backgrounds for murals.