



Primary

Focus

Art

EXERCISE 05

Parent Objective

To provide an unusual and novel extension to your child's creation of art.

"Children become like the things they love. He does it with his hands, by experience, first in play and then in work."

Dr. Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*



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Judy Laidlaw

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Maria Montessori's Education of the Creative Mind

Making Your Own Paint

Materials:

- Colored sidewalk chalk
- Nutmeg grater or lemon zester
- Shallow bowl(s) – can be disposable
- Small whisk
- Small pouring containers of water and/or cooking oil
- Drawing or art paper and brush(es)

Preparation:

With your child decide if you will make a water-based or an oil-based paint, or both. Gather and lay out materials, covering the work area for easy clean-up.



Instructions for Water-based Paint:

1. Invite your child to choose the chalk color to be used to make the paint's pigment.
2. Demonstrate to the child how to position the grater or zester across the bowl's rim, holding it in place with his or her subdominant hand.
3. The child's dominant hand is then used to grasp the chalk, rubbing it back and forth across the grater or zester, grating chalk pigment into the bowl beneath.
4. Once at least $\frac{1}{4}$ cup pigment has been grated, the water is added. Show the child how to dribble small amounts of water at a time, whisking after each addition until reaching paint consistency.
5. The paint is now ready to be used.



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Instructions for Oil Paint:

- Follow the same above procedure, except instead of whisking water into the chalk pigment, use cooking oil. Grapeseed, olive, canola, vegetable oil - all will work equally well.
- Enjoy!