



Primary



Lower El

Focus

Art

EXERCISE 08

Parent Objective

To encourage close observation of the world.

"How can anyone paint who cannot grade colors?"

The New Children:
Talks with Dr. Maria Montessori

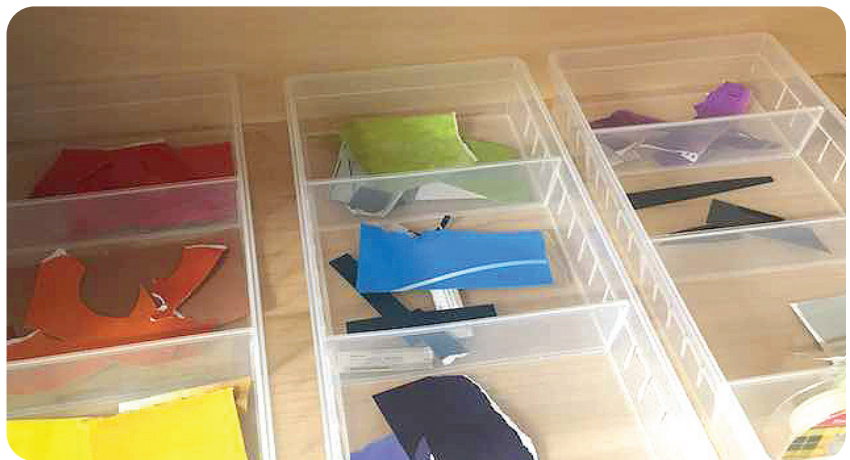


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Maria Montessori's Education of the Creative Mind

Paper Color Palette



Materials:

Scissors, organizer box with dividers (or multiple, similar sized boxes) with minimum of six (6) compartments capable of fitting 2"x2" paper, plus access to magazines, cardboard packaging, wrapping paper, printed advertisements, stationary, etc.

Preparation:

With your child, designate a place for a "rainbow paper palette." Position the boxes here and explain to the rest of the household that this is your child's personal art area.

Instructions:

1. Invite your child to create an artist's "palette" of colors made of paper.
2. Explain that together we hope to identify as many different colors as possible and sort them by "color family" into the containers.
3. Assign a different primary color family (red, yellow, blue) or secondary color family (orange, green, purple) to each of the 6 containers.
4. Explain that each family has its own underlying base color, which is predominant.



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You can say, "Imagine mixing paint. What color will you begin with...before you add a small amount of another color? After you mix the paint, you can see more of the original color than the second color. The first color is the family color."

5. With your child, "collect" colors by hunting through your recycled paper options for "swatches" of a singular hue, ideally with little or no pattern.
6. Demonstrate cutting the color pieces down to 2"x2" or smaller.
7. Place each color with its respective family, slowly building your palette over time into a robust collection of tertiaries, tints, tones, and shades per container.

Model for your child how to pick and sort color. You can say, "This looks like more of a yellowish green than a greenish yellow. I'll place it with the green family due to its stronger green qualities."

8. Ultimately, the palette is there for your child to "paint" collages and any number of artistic creations; if maintained, it becomes another option among art materials like crayons, markers, and liquid paint.

Pro Tip: Use two-sided scotch tape to affix the color to a surface. The tape (vs. glue sticks or liquid glue) provides some flexibility for repositioning. Heavy duty, two-sided adhesive, especially foam mounting, can provide 3-D effects.

Optional Extensions:

Expand your paper palette to include containers for various color schemes, such as cool vs. warm, neutral vs. bright, earth/natural vs. neon/artificial.