



Family Relief Printing

by Jo Ellison




You need:


- Ready-mix Paint
- Paper
- Objects to print with- the possibilities are endless but plastic cups and objects from your recycling are a great way to start.
- A tray or plastic plate to use as a paint pallet
- Optional extras:
- Pair of scissors
- An old sponge

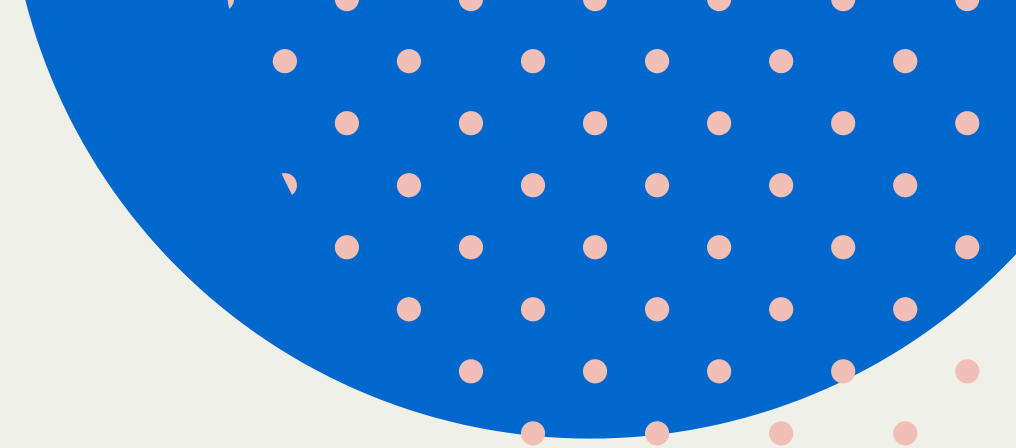
How to:

Step 1: Collect objects from around your home! These should be easily washable objects that you don't mind getting paint on, or disposable objects you can throw away when you're finished! You could look in the following places: Recycling - eg. yoghurt pots and toilet roll tubes; Fridge - eg. celery sticks or potatoes; Outside - eg. leaves; Toy box - eg. easy to clean toys like plastic cars and wooden blocks.



Step 2: Test out the different objects you've found to see the marks you can make with them:

- Have a look through your collection of objects, think about the different textures and shapes each one has. Choose one to try making your first print with!
 - Choose a colour of paint and spread it over your paint pallet (you could use a paint brush or sponge to spread it out.
 - Dip your chosen object into the paint- choose one side and try to cover the whole surface! You could use a paintbrush or
 - sponge to apply the paint.
 - Press your object onto the paper to see what marks it makes! You could try different sides and vary the amount of paint you use to get different effects.
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Step 3: Try out all the different objects you've created to see how many different shapes and textures you can make and try putting them together in new and different ways to make abstract pictures.

The Big Challenge: Think about whether you could use your objects to print a representational picture like a face! Take a look through your prints to and see whether you can see any shapes that looks like eyes or a mouth! You will want to find shapes that could make eyes, ears, hair, nose mouth, cheeks- even eyebrows and eyelashes! Why not have a competition with your friends or family to see who can make the silliest face? Or the face that looks most like them!

Top Tips:

- Pick objects that are easy to clean or can be thrown away
- Put down a table covering before using paint and have a damp cloth nearby so you can clean up accidents quickly and easily
- Make sure children know to always ask an adult before putting paint on their toys or other objects from around the house
- Print making is about trial and error, make a first attempt to see how everything comes together. Think about what you do and don't like about your print and try to improve on it for your next one!
- Test out different objects and colours until you're happy with the final result.

