



Little Color Mixer

Add different paint colors to water, watch them spread and mix, then find the closest matches on a color card.

Helps Your Child Grow



Exploration and Discovery

Watching paint spread through water, combining colors, and comparing lighter and darker mixtures gives your child practice observing visible changes.



Fine Motor

Squeezing out one or more drops gives your child practice adjusting hand pressure.



What You'll Need

1. Color reference card
2. clear disposable cups
3. watercolor paint
4. water



Add a Drop of Paint

Add a drop of paint to a cup of water and let your child watch the color slowly spread. Then hand them the paint and invite them to add a drop and observe how the water changes.

Observations

- Leans toward the cup and watches closely as the color changes in the water
- Holds the paint container and slowly adds paint to the cup

Tips

- Hold the cup steady while your child squeezes in the paint.
- Invite observation with questions such as, “Which color would you like to add?” and “What is changing in the water?”



Mix the Colors

Offer several paint colors and let your child add one to the first cup. If they want to continue, prepare a few new cups with the same starting color, then let your child choose how many drops of a second color to add to each one. Compare the results.

Observations

- Shows interest in the color change and adds more paint to the water
- Points out the changing color to you

Tips

- Choose colors with a clear mixing result - for example, red and blue make purple, while blue and yellow make green.
- Use small cards to record the amounts: draw one droplet for one drop and two droplets for two drops. Then compare the amount added with the resulting color.
- The number of drops does not need to be exact. If your child is absorbed in watching the paint change the water, let them continue exploring.
- Before mixing, ask, "What do you think will happen?" Afterward, respond with curiosity: "Wow - what color is this?"



Find the Closest Color

Show your child the color card closest to the darkest cup. Then hand over the remaining cards and invite them to match each one with a cup. If their match differs from yours, compare the two colors together instead of treating it as simply wrong.

Observations

- Looks back and forth between the color card and the colored water to compare them
- Looks at you tentatively for confirmation after pointing out the color

Tips

- Compare the lighter and darker shades on the color card so your child can begin noticing differences in lightness.
- Name the shade your child is comparing, such as “dark blue,” “bright red,” or “light purple,” to connect the color they see with a word.