

Ocean Collage

Sometimes painting and gluing seems too messy to consider, even taking out the materials. Allowing your child to get hands dirty helps them understand their world. This project has many sensory offerings for your child to experience. Each step practices different finger and hand grasps. Pick a time where your family schedule allows plenty of time for set up, execution, and clean up... mostly time for art should be time for fun! As you follow the steps below, keep process over product in mind – allow your child to be creative and try it his way! Include your child in each step of the process below.

Materials

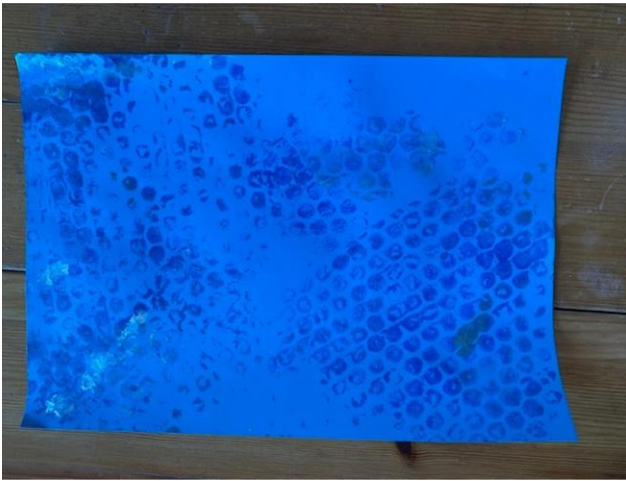
Table cover	Paint Shirt	paint brushes
Bubble Wrap -about 8" X 10"	Stamps and Rollers	
Pie Pans for Paint	Tempera or acrylic paint: white and shades of blue	
Glue	Yarn, ribbon, or strips of paper for seaweed	
Black/White/Blue Construction paper	Clipart/stickers of ocean animals, boats, anchors, etc.	



1. Cover your workspace with plastic or a grocery bag. Put on an art apron or paint shirt.
2. Make homemade stamps by cutting out cardboard and attaching it to an empty Play-doh container or a block or cork or bottle top, anything to make a handle for your stamp. Glue bubble wrap to the stamper for extra texture. Wrapping bubble wrap around a toilet tube can make a quick paint roller.
3. Prepare paint and a tub of water, putting them in your containers. Tape down the bubble wrap flat.
4. Using the brush, paint the bubble wrap page and the cardboard or bubble wrap stamp. For children who don't like to touch the paint, look for tools that they can touch to keep their fingers away from the paint – holding on to the playdough container or the handle of a plastic fork (Aha! A new idea for a stamper - dip the plastic fork in the paint and stamp it on the page to make water waves.)



5. Take your paper- *your ocean*, and press it against the painted bubble wrap page. Lift. Repeat.
6. Use any stamps or rollers you made to make more colors. It's okay to use the paint brush or fingers!



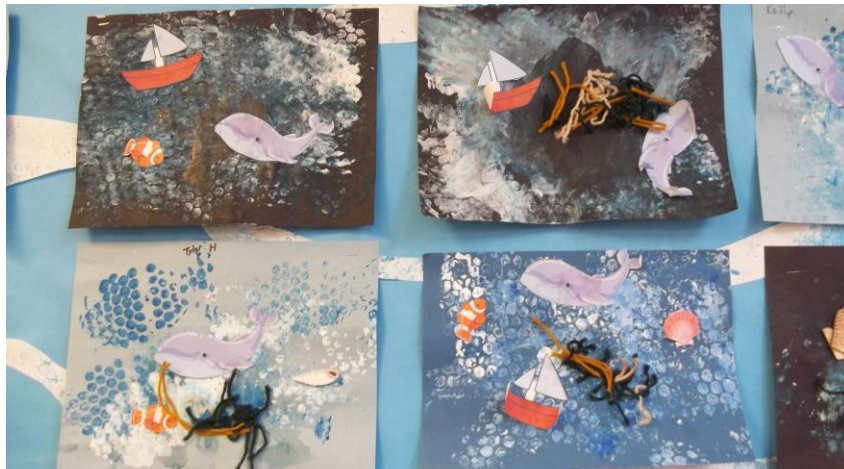
Now your ocean is ready! It will need a few minutes to dry.

This may be a good place to stop. If your child is showing clues that she is done, put the page aside and finish the project at a different time.

If clean-up is a difficult routine for your child, think of just one thing that she can do to help. Then next time, she can help with two things, and so on. Praise tiny efforts to encourage repeated and added actions next time.

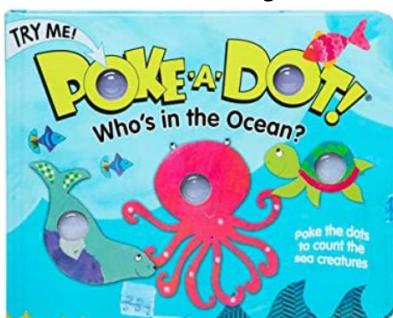
Finishing touches

7. Ideas for the ocean additions: stickers, magazine cut-outs, clip art from an internet search, simple parent drawings 😊
8. Use yarn, twine, real grass, ribbons, paper scraps for seaweed.
9. Use tiny rocks, or shell pieces picked up from the beach.
10. Glue them on. Let your child squeeze the liquid glue or roll the glue roller – all over the page. Give your child a cue for *no more glue* – sign or say “all done glue” or “last squeeze”... decide what you’ll say and use the same words whenever you do this, to model language to encourage your child to follow simple commands.
11. Let dry and display your child’s work!

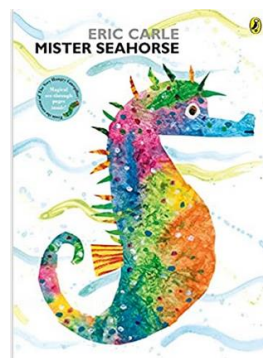
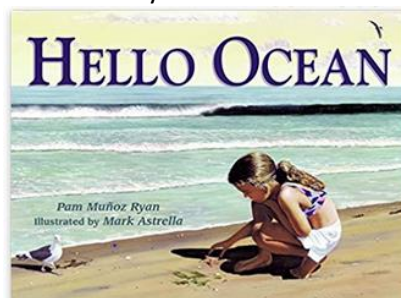


Books to share before or after you do this project:

From *Melissa and Doug*



Author Pam Muñoz Ryan
Illustrated by Mark Astrella



by Eric Carle

This is a great resource blog for ocean books and others:

<https://pocketofpreschool.com/ocean-books-for-little-learners/>

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Holly Ridge Center 2021