

# Auntie Crafty's Best Finds

## Household Stamping



Here are several fun ways to stamp and paint using household objects! Try using paint and ink pads for various methods.

- 1) Q-tips (stamp or draw)
- 2) Wine corks
- 3) Pencil erasers (use an unsharpened pencil)
- 4) Toilet paper roll edge
- 5) Bubble wrap (rubber band to mouth of bottle)
- 6) Cotton balls (pinch with a clothespin and dab)
- 7) Sponges
- 8) Plastic forks create fun lines and textures

## Pom Poms Through a Tube



I love this activity! Just take a paper towel tube and tape it to the wall. Then have your toddler drop [pom poms](#) through it into a bowl. It sounds so simple, but it's a hit! And the best part is how quiet it is.

## Race Cars on Tape



Create a race track using painter's tape on the floor. (Masking tape leaves sticky marks behind.) Then let your little one play with cars on the track. Add other things to make it a town--blocks for a house or store, add some animals or figurines, etc. Cut arches out of an empty square Kleenex box to make it a tunnel (tape it down).

## Pipe Cleaner Sprinkles



This activity is simply cutting up [pipe cleaners](#)

(into 2 inch pieces) and having your toddler poke them through the holes in an empty parmesan or spice container. This is awesome for working on fine motor skills. And you can take it with you anywhere!

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## Straw Painting



Set out some drinking straws, sheets of colored paper, and some paint that is thinned out with water. (The paint needs to be about the consistency of milk.) Drop one end of your straw into the watered down paint... Next, tap the straw on the paper, leaving deposits of paint on the page. Once you have some paint on the page, position your straw close to the paint and BLOW! Move the straw around the page as you blow to move the paint into different patterns.

## Milk Glue Painting



All you need is two cups of milk (2% or whole work best), hand soap, food coloring and cotton swabs!

1. Pour the milk into a shallow dish, like a plate.
2. Put 2-3 drops of different food coloring drops in each corner of the plate, leaving space between each color.
3. Put a drop of soap in the middle between the colors.
4. Grab a cotton swab, dab it with soap, and then gently poke the middle of each of the colors.

5. Watch what happens! The “oohing”, “aahing” and faces of shock and surprise were so fun we did the project over a few times!

## Secret Messages



Use a white crayon to write or draw a secret message. Then paint over it with water colors to see it appear!

## How To Make Salt Dough



1 cup salt  
1 cup plain flour  
Up to 1 cup of water (add gradually)  
Roll out the dough and use cookie cutters to make shapes. Lay them on a baking tray lined with some wax paper or parchment paper. Cook them on a VERY low heat (around 200 F) for up to 3 hours. If the shapes are over 1cm thick then they will probably need to be turned over during cooking.

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## Recipe for Snow Dough

homemade  
Snow Dough!



Sensory  
play!  
the imagination tree



2 cups corn flour (corn starch in US)  
1/3 to 1/2 of a cup vegetable oil  
3-4 tablespoons silver glitter  
You can also use baby oil, which makes it smell and feel even nicer, but do NOT use with under 3s or any child who may put it in their mouth as it is dangerous if ingested.

## Toy Car Wash



From Pinterest--"This is the easiest idea, and it keeps my son busy every time I set it up. Simply fill a pan or tray with warm soapy water (bubble bath or dish soap works), add cars and voilà! It also works with toy animals or adding sponges or scoops to extend the fun."

## Condensed Milk Painting



Just pour the condensed milk in ice cube trays and add drops of food coloring in the separate compartments. The texture of condensed milk paint is sticky and goopy!! There is nothing to drip off the brush and it leaves behind a shiny, glossy picture.

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## Glow Reactions



Blogger's Note: This is the coolest thing ever! Pictures do not do this justice. Just be sure to have a lot of baking soda and vinegar on hand. They will want to do it again and again!

- Yellow Highlighter
- Water
- Baking Soda
- Vinegar
- Black light (blogger found hers here for \$14.00! [http://www.amazon.com/American-DJ-Black-Blacklight-Fixture/dp/B0002F5544/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1310168273&sr=8-2](http://www.amazon.com/American-DJ-Black-Blacklight-Fixture/dp/B0002F5544/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1310168273&sr=8-2))

Directions:

Make glow water with the yellow highlighter and some water (see below).

Add glow water to your vinegar (It can be diluted a lot) and pour over baking soda in a black lit room.

How to Make Glow Water:

Break open the yellow highlighter by squeezing the end with a pair of scissors so the back will pop off. If you have a hard time getting them open just soak the whole highlighter in water, tip down. It will take a little

while longer but will work just as well. (I've also found the big ones are easiest to pop open... can find a pack of 3 at the dollar store.) After you've open them, remove cylinder ink pad. Soak the ink pad in water for about an hour or until it loses its color. You CAN dilute this quite a bit and it will still glow. We filled a decent size tub half way up with water only using one little yellow highlighter, and I'm sure we could have diluted it more.

## Glow-in-the-Dark Slime



This recipe can make 2 small half jar fulls of slime or your could package.

**Ingredients:**

- 1 - 4oz bottle of clear or blue gel Elmer's glue
- 1 cup of warm water
- 2-3 tablespoons of glow-in-the-dark paint
- Green Neon Food Coloring
- 2 teaspoons of Borax
- 1/3 cup of warm water

**Directions:**

First mix together the Elmer's glue and the 1 cup of warm water. Stir in the paint and food coloring. In a

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separate small bowl mix together the 1/3 cup warm water and 2 teaspoons of borax. Stir until the borax is dissolved. Now add about 2 tablespoons of the borax solution to the glue solution. **You WILL NOT use all of the borax solution.** Stir continuously while adding the solution. The more borax solution you add the stiffer the slime will be. So if you want the slim to be more runny, then add less borax solution. You can add more green food coloring while stirring these solutions together to get your desired color of slime! It should start sticking together and you've got green glow-in-the-dark slime!

TIPS: You can find glow-in-dark-paint at craft stores in the paint isles, and borax can be found at most grocery stores along side the laundry detergents.

## Flubber



To make flubber, you just need some water, glue, borax, and food coloring! mix the glue, water, and food coloring in one bowl. in a separate bowl, mix hot water and borax. when you mix the two together, a magical thing happens – it turns into this smooth elastic-y substance that i can't quite describe. are you curious

to know for yourself what this stuff is like?! try it yourself – your kids will love it!! Here's the recipe!

### **Ingredients:**

3/4 cup cold water  
1 cup Elmer's glue  
liquid food coloring  
1/2 cup hot water  
1 teaspoon borax (you can find this in a box in the laundry aisle)

### **Directions:**

step 1: in bowl 1 – mix together the cold water, glue, and food coloring. set aside.

step 2: in bowl 2 – mix together the hot water and borax, until the borax is completely dissolved.

step 3: slowly add glue mixture to borax mixture. mix well. pour off excess water.

## Coffee PlayDough Recipe



2 Cups of Flour  
1/2 Cup of Coffee Grounds  
1 Tablespoon of Instant Coffee (when it wasn't dark enough)  
1 Cup of Salt  
2 Teaspoons of Cream of Tartar (recipe called for 2 Tb, but someone cut the amount by a third because she didn't have enough and I think it still worked out fine).

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1 Cup of very hot water  
2 Tablespoons of oil  
Glycerin drops (optional)  
Mix the dry ingredients. Add the wet, stir bunches. Let it sit for awhile to thicken, then stir some more.

## Quickest Play Dough Recipe



### **Ingredients:**

2 cups plain flour (all purpose)  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1/2 cup salt  
2 tablespoons cream of tartar  
Up to 1.5 cups boiling water (adding in increments until it feels just right)  
food coloring (optional)  
few drops glycerine (optional- adds more shine!)

### **Directions:**

Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a large mixing bowl. Add the boiling water  
Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky, combined dough. Add the food coloring and glycerine (both optional).  
Allow it to cool down then take it out of the bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone. \* This is the most important part of the process, so keep at it until it's the perfect consistency!\*

(If it remains a little sticky then add a touch more flour until just right)  
And *Voila!* Now play, play play!  
For more ideas of playing with Play Dough, check out: The A-Z of Play Dough Recipes and Activities!  
<http://theimaginationtree.com/2013/01/the-z-of-play-dough-recipes-and.html>

## Shaving Cream Bath Paint



All you need is a can of shaving foam/cream (preferably hypoallergenic) and a few drops of food coloring!

## Bubble Bath Paint



1 cup baby bubble bath or body wash (clear/white)  
4 tbsp cornstarch  
a few drops of food coloring  
small containers with lids

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## Home Made Finger Paint



3 T sugar  
1/2 C cornstarch 2 C cold water  
food coloring  
Mix sugar and cornstarch together in a sauce pan. Add cold water and combine with a whisk. Cook on medium heat until the mixture thickens to a thin pudding consistency. It will thicken more upon standing. Once removed from heat, COOL and then separate into bowls and color as desired.

## Peanut Butter Playdough



1 C creamy peanut butter  
2 C powdered sugar  
1/2 C honey  
Directions: mix mix mix. I use my stand mixer to make it quick, clean and easy, but if you prefer to make it long, messy, and not-so-easy, let your kids mix it up by hand :)

## Cloud Dough



8 cups flour & 1 cup baby oil. It feels like flour as you run your fingers through it, but it's moldable

## Soap Mud



- \*Grate 3 bars of solid soap
- \*Tear up one toilet roll into lots of teeny-weeny pieces.
- \*Pour in nearly 2 jugs of quite warm water. Needs to be hot enough to melt the soap shavings.
- \*Stir with hands, big spoons, mash with a potato masher and whisk it up into a lovely pulpy, bubbly, smooth mush!