Plastic Bag Prints!

Explore the magic of printmaking with just a few home materials. Make a one-of-a-kind work of art and have fun layering colors and marks using a Ziploc sandwich bag, markers and your imagination!

AGE: 4+ (with adult support)

TIMEFRAME: 30 minutes

SUPPLIES NEEDED:
- 1 Set of Water Soluble Markers
- 1 Ziploc Sandwich Bag
- 5 – 6 Sheets Pre-Cut, Square Drawing Paper
- 1 Pen

To watch the video tutorial, go to our blog post at thinkplaycreate.org/blog/diy-plastic-bag-prints/

Set Up Your Print Station: Set up your print station by laying out your materials. Place your Ziploc bag (your printing plate) flat on the table. Pull out your markers and place them near you. Set one sheet of your cut paper next to the Ziploc bag. You’re ready to go!
**Create a Layer:** Using a marker, draw a shape or mark directly on top of your bag. Once ready, carefully turn the bag over (colored side down) and place it on your paper. Gently pat the top of the bag all over the colored area. Lift the bag and watch as your entire design transfers (moves) onto your paper from the bag. You’ve just made a print! Clean your bag off with a wipe, and try it again!

**Dream Up Your Design:** Now that you know the process for printing with your bag, you can play! Add more and more layers of shape and color onto your paper, mix colors and experiment with making different marks with your marker. You can create a picture of something recognizable or just have fun layering different shapes and marks together.

**Enhance Your Image:** After you finish adding all of your layers, you can use a black pen or other drawing material (whatever you have!) to enhance your picture and add fun details.
EXPRESS YOURSELF! This type of art making is a great outlet for sharing how you’re feeling and showing it with the color choices and marks that you make. Have your child explore using colors and marks that connect with their feelings. What might calm look like? How about nervous? Excited? Encourage your child to share their choices and to talk about their work with you.

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS PICTURE? Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) is a group method for looking at works of art and exploring their meanings together. This method does not try to provide any more information than what the viewers observe. Participants can look at any work of art and ask What do I see? and What makes me say that? Engage your child in a VTS conversation while looking at their piece and/or any image that you have available.

SELECT A STORY! Reading is a wonderful vehicle for learning and for introducing new ideas to learners. Select engaging and age-appropriate books that feature expressive art and open-ended art making to read to your child before and/or after the Plastic Bag Print activity.

RECOMMENDED RELATED READING (AGES 4 – 8):
• Beautiful Oops! by Barney Saltzberg
• Let’s Paint by Gabriel Alborozo
• Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell and illustrated by Rafael López

CA STATE STANDARDS:

CA Arts Standards for Visual Art (Grades K – 2)
• PK.VA:Re8 Interpret art by identifying and describing subject matter.
• K.VA:Cr1.1 Engage in exploration and imaginative play with various arts materials.
• K.VA:Re8 Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details.
• 1.VA:Re8 Interpret art by categorizing subject matter and identifying the mood and characteristics of form.
• 1.VA:Cr2.1 Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.
• 2.VA:Cr2.1 Experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interests in a work of art or design.

HOW WAS IT?
Thank you for taking part in this activity! Do you have any suggestions or questions you’d like to share with us at the Museum? Email education@thinkplaycreate.org.

VSA
The Kennedy Center
This program is provided under a contract with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 2019-2020

pARTners in Creativity is made possible through generous support from Autism Speaks, Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation, the Issa Family Foundation, Kiwanis Club of San Diego, the Maurice J. Masserini Trust, Maryanne and Irv Pfister, the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation, Southwest Airlines and the USS Midway Foundation.