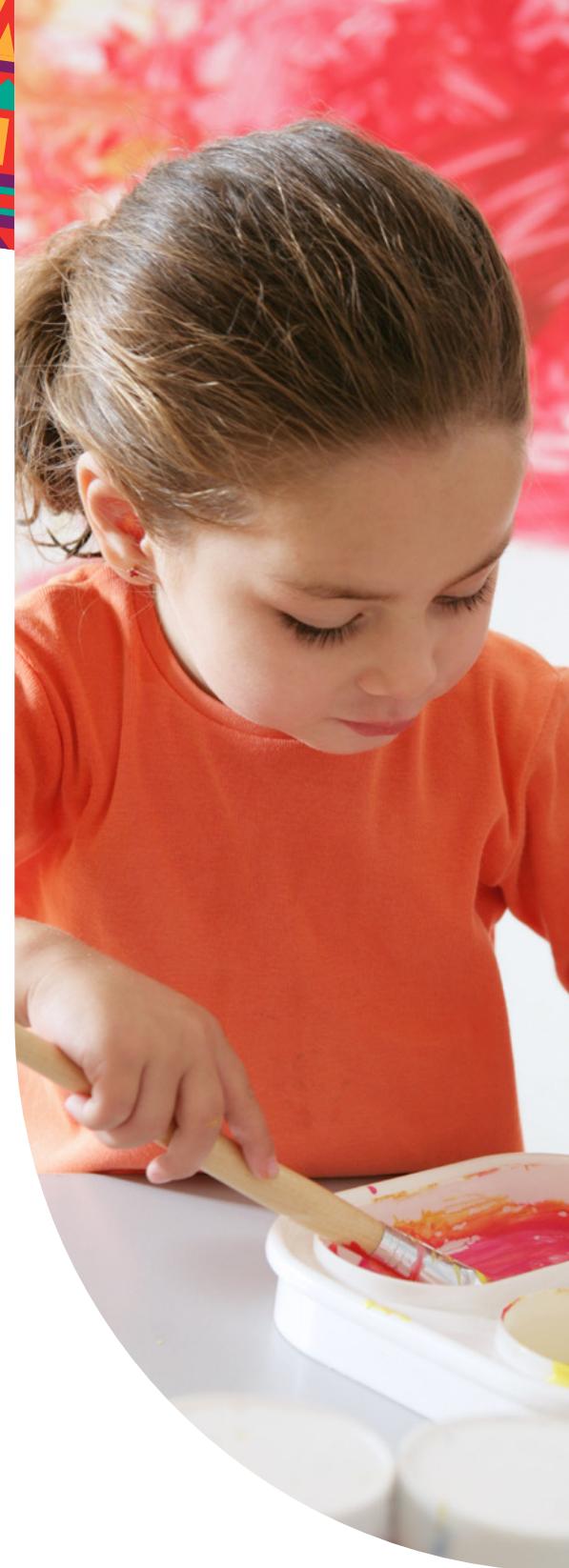


Harmony Week.

Harmony Week is about celebrating and exploring Australia's cultural diversity. Facilitating discussions and encouraging children to share their cultural backgrounds through art, colour and patterns, is a great way to help them explore and understand the extent of diversity around them and encourage individual expression through thought, imagination and curiosity.

MATERIALS

- A hard, flat surface that can be easily washed off and cleaned. You can use large tiles, mirrors or even a table top for this activity. If you're using a table top, use masking tape to tape off an A4 sized rectangle to help visualise a working space (product code: 80588800).
- Printed examples of some different cultural art. When searching for images you can use the search term 'patterns in cultural art' or 'patterns in art from around the world'. Where possible print them in colour, and print them as big as you can, A4 is ideal.
- Acrylic paint (product code: 25082201) – ask the children to select the colours they would like to use by discussing the different colours they can see in the image examples.
- Cotton tips (product code: 25059393).
- A4 110 GSM paper (product code: 25082124) – using a higher GSM paper allows for the larger amounts of paint that younger children inevitably use without as much risk of tearing.
- Foam roller (product code: 25090886).
- Roller tray – if you would like to have a few colour options you can use a paint roller tray (product code: 87046728) otherwise a plate or tray of any kind is fine.





INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare your surface - ensure you have cloths and buckets of water for a quick clean up when required. Lay the tape down if you are printing straight onto the table top, or onto a surface that is larger than a A4 sized piece of paper.
2. Demonstrate to the children rolling out a thin layer of paint to the surface. If too much paint is used, the print will be smudged and the patterns and drawings will not transfer to the paper as well.
3. Use a cotton tip to draw patterns into the paint.
4. Lay your paper over the paint and gently rub all over, making sure you smooth right to the edges.
5. Lift the paper and you should see a print of the image. This will be a mirror image of what has been drawn onto the surface.

EXTENSION

Once their artwork is dry, the children can use oil pastels (product code: 86880971) to add to their artwork using the same examples as inspiration. This is a beautiful opportunity for layering.

OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING THIS ACTIVITY:

- I wonder what you can notice about the print and the painting on the surface when you put them next to each other – discuss mirror images.
- I wonder if you can see any shapes in the examples? Which of those shapes would you like to use in your pattern?
- What can you notice about the patterns? Are they using the same shapes in different sizes? Are they using the same shapes over and over?
- I wonder what colours you can see when you look closely? What do you notice about the colours and how they look when they are next to different colours?
- Can you make a pattern? Can you draw a shape next to/under/on top of your other shape?

This lesson plan has been created in collaboration with Melissa Cupidon who has a Certificate III in Children Services and 4 years' experience teaching art in the early childhood learning sector. Melissa is also a self-taught, practicing artist who owns and operates her own art studio, Creative Makes.