

Sun Catcher

Ages: 4-9

Take advantage of the abundant summer sun! Make an eye catching sun catcher, with your class, that not only brightens any window but also builds fine motor skills and creativity. Instead of using traditional paint or crayons, they will experiment with baby oil and a cotton swab.

What You Need:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Medium bowl
- Marker
- Scissors
- Baby oil
- Water
- Small plastic container
- Cotton swabs



What You Do:

1. Get started by having children use a marker to trace around the medium bowl on a sheet of construction paper to create a circle. Have them cut out the circle (boost those fine motor skills!).
2. Before constructing the sun catcher, let them experiment making lines and designs on a sheet of white paper with crayons. Don't forget to encourage them with lots of positive praise.
3. Trade the paper and crayons for the construction paper circle. Explain to them that they won't be drawing with crayons—they'll use a cotton swab instead!
4. Pour a small amount of baby oil into the plastic container. Have them dip the cotton swab in the baby oil and draw lots of lines and scribbles on the construction paper circle. What do they think the baby oil will do to the paper?
5. Watch as the oil changes the construction paper! Did it change in the way they thought it would? For comparison, ask them to dip a cotton swab in water and see if it changes the construction paper the same way the baby oil did. Why do they think the baby oil makes interesting lines and water doesn't?
6. Encourage them to continue drawing designs on the sun catcher with the cotton swab.
7. When they are done painting, hang the finished sun catcher in a window and watch as it glows in the sunlight.