



# Printing and Primary Colours

Printing with found objects is combined with learning about primary colours in this simple and effective activity that has lots of scope for extension.

## Materials

- Cartridge paper
- Ready mixed paint (blue, yellow & red)
- Found objects e.g cardboard tubes, plastic bricks, sponges etc
- Plate/paint palette for paint

## Method

- Talk to the children about the 3 colours you have put onto a plate or palette. Explain that these 3 colours are special because they can't be made from other colours. Introduce the term 'primary colours'.
- Show the children how to dip the first object into paint then print it down onto paper. Ensure they understand the vertical motion used for printing. Aim to avoid dragging the objects across the paper.
- Remind them of the printing action then ask them to choose a second object and print in red on the paper. Ask them to print on top of the yellow as well as in any spaces on the paper
- Repeat with the third object printing with blue paint.
- During the printing activity encourage the children to talk about what they can see. Are there any changes to the colours when they print on top of each other? What do they notice?
- If using the prints for an APFS project, trim the paper to A4 size.

## Taking it further

Experiment with printing a simple, controlled pattern instead of random prints. Explore the prints made from scrunched up paper instead of using objects.



## Experimenting

Introducing appropriate vocabulary such as 'primary colours' can never start too early. Although not all children will retain it initially, they will remember that yellow, red and blue are special colours and gradually develop their visual literacy through finding examples of primary colours in their immediate environment.

