

Teachers' Notes: Stencilling & Screen Printing

by Gemma Mc Girr

Materials: *Card*
Scissors
Sponges, brushes, toothbrushes, craft knife and stippling brush
(optional)
Poster paints (primary colours)
Silk screen and squeegee
Masking tape
Newspaper
Acrylic paints and system 3 print medium (optional)

Encourage the children to look at the artist in the studio making prints using the stencil (in the video clip). Discuss how the positive and negative shapes are made. See how the different textures are created by using different brushes, sponges and by spattering the paint.

The children in the video use their local park as a stimulus for their stencils. There are lots of themes that could be used as a stimulus: stories, poems, songs, seasons, festivals, special occasions, packaging.....

The children can experiment with the different ways of stencilling, different colours on a range of backgrounds. Encourage them to discuss their choices, what it is they like about the prints.

For silk screen printing the children can work in groups as they will have to help each other when pulling the squeegee down over the screen.

- Prepare the screen with masking tape as shown in the mini video, this creates a well for the paint and keeps it within the frame.
- Cover the table with newspaper.
- Cut or tear the stencil from either newsprint or newspaper, (this sticks to the screen and makes the print).
- Place the silk screen over the stencil ensuring it is completely within the frame
- Pour the paint along the well at the top of the screen.
- Place the squeegee at the top of the screen
- Pull the squeegee down over the screen, dragging the colour down. This may need to be repeated to ensure the stencil sticks to the screen.
- Lift the screen and the stencil should be stuck to it.
- Remove the painted newspaper and put in the sheet you wish to print onto. Place fresh newspaper down first as this helps prevent a big mess!
- Place the screen with the stencil stuck on over the sheet of paper
- Pour paint into the well and drag the squeegee down over the screen. This may need to be repeated to get an even layer of colour.
- Lift the screen and carefully pull the page away. You should have a good print. The same stencil can be used to make several prints.

Wash the screen with warm soapy water at the end of the session. When it is dry replace the masking tape and you are set to go again.