



Art - printing

Spring is here and it is time to do some spring art. All you need is:

- a small branch
- a small refreshment bottle
- liquid colour (brown and white or pink)
- a brush
- a white sheet of paper

Start with observing blooming trees outside, if possible. If you can't go outside, maybe you could see some through the window. If not, you can show a picture.



Have all the materials prepared and present them to the child. For a younger toddler name everything separately. Tell them what you will be doing.



Have the child colour the branch, using the brush and brown colour. Then turn the branch around and print it on the paper. Let it dry for a while, while you explain the next part. If the child is still in an early phase of developing their coordination, you may help by holding the branch but do let them colour it by themselves if they want to.

Take the bottle and dip its bottom in the white/pink colour (make sure that you

have the colour in a wide enough plate to fit the bottle but not wide enough to splash the colour around). Then take the bottle and print its bottom on the printed branch, thus leaving a "flower" on it. Have the child repeat this step as many times as they want to create a blooming branch. Don't be disappointed if it is not perfect. The work is more important than the result and after this activity your toddler will be one step closer to mastering their skills.





This is a somehow limited art activity that doesn't allow free self-expression but teaches the child about following a sequence of actions, refines fine motor skills and keeps the child in the reality (trees are brown, their blossoms are white/pink). Once you have finished this you can give them another white sheet of paper and let them use the rest of the colours for free self-expression. Let them enjoy the beauty of colours and the magic of creating something out of nothing.



Tips:

- Use **an art mat** to place under the sheet of paper. If you don't have one, a hard plastic bag will do (this is what I used because we were not at home when we were doing this activity). Don't freak out if the art goes out of the art mat as well, just have **a set of cleaning materials** that the child can use afterwards to clean the table. *A sponge and a dry piece of cloth put together on a tray on a reachable for the child place would be enough.*
- Have **an apron** for art or a set of "art clothes" - clothes that you will use only for art and you will be comfortable with the idea that they will be artistically coloured forever!
- If you don't have an appropriate bottle, you can use a bunch of cotton buds, tied with an elastic band.

On the photos: Veda, age 1 year 3 months.