



Oil Pastel Resist Strips

Experiment by making marks on strips of fabric and investigate the concept of resist.

Materials

Cotton or polyester/cotton torn into strips approx 6cm wide.

Oil pastels.

Brusho[®] powder dye mixed with water.

Paint brushes.

Newspaper.

Method

- Prepare the Brusho[®] by mixing it with water to the desired colour strength. Bear in mind the colour will always dry slightly lighter.
- Demonstrate the resist process to the children using the oil pastels on the fabric and then brushing over with Brusho[®] colour.
- Ask the children to make a variety of marks on the fabric using their choice of oil pastel colour. This could include drawing, colouring, taking rubbings etc.
- Once the marks are made the children need to add the Brusho[®], choosing a colour or colours that will complement the colour of oil pastel they have used.
- Hang the fabric strips to dry.
- Once the strips are dry, discuss with the children what they could do with the strips next or how they want to display them. They can be hung individually or from a hoop, attached to a cane or stick, woven neatly together or woven in and out of some wide plastic mesh.
- There are a variety of ways to use this idea as part of one of the APFS projects. For example, weave the strips together and the resulting fabric will be scanned by APFS. Alternatively take digital photographs of the work and they can be used in the project. Remember, artwork must be max A4 size if taking part in one of the APFS projects.



Taking it Further

Use the decorated fabric strips as part of a physical activity, maybe in PE or Dance, by attaching the strips to canes and waving them in the air. Draw shapes in the air and the fabric will make lovely movements. If this activity is done in the summer the strips could be woven into the fencing around the playground. Alternatively, they could be hung from a tree in the school grounds.

Prepare to Investigate

This activity is all about investigating and less confident children may need more support if they are unused to working in such an experimental way. You may wish to set parameters for some elements of the activity e.g. use only warm or cool colours and make flowing marks on the fabric.