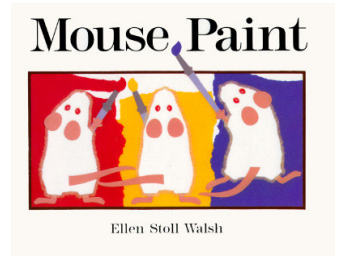


Mouse Paint

by Ellen Stoll Walsh



- **Things to get ready:**

...for the art activity

1. Three pieces of paper, red, yellow, and blue paint.

...for snack

1. Sugar cookies, one for each child
2. Craft sticks
3. Waxed paper
4. White icing
5. Food coloring
6. Small pretzel sticks
7. Gumdrops
8. Raisins

- **Getting the children ready to listen:**

Use one or both of these poems to “get in the mood” for **Mouse Paint**. For both poems, standing in a circle will work well. (Be sure you have a plan for those children who do not have on the named colors and need to know what to do.)

Color Rhyme

If your clothes have any red,
(do action as rhyme indicates)
Put your finger on your head.

If your clothes have any blue,
Put your finger on your shoe.

If your clothes have any green,
Wave your hand so that you're seen.

If your clothes have any yellow,
Smile like a happy fellow.

If your clothes have any brown,
Turn your smile into a frown.

If your clothes have any black,
Put your hands behind your back.

If your clothes have any white,
Stamp your feet with all your might.

Jean Warren

Color Square Dance *(have those wearing named colors do actions as indicated)*

Blues, step forward,
Then turn around,
Walk back to your place
And jump up and down.

Reds, hop to the middle
And back again,
Find the yellows
And shake their hands.

Now, greens, you slowly
Turn around,
Clap your hands
And make a sound.

Do-si-do,
Around we go,
All the colors
Heel to toe.

Jean Warren

- **Read-Aloud Guide**

BEFORE you read the book:

1. Show the cover and read the title, illustrator, and author.
2. Ask the children how the picture goes with the title.
3. Have them name the three colors they see.
4. Tell them something special will happen in the book with these three colors and to listen to see what that is.

DURING reading:

1. After you read the first two pages, ask “Why couldn’t the cat find the mice?” (*they were on a white piece of paper*) (this will be important later on for your art activity)
2. Since there is not much text on each page, be sure to use your voice to show expression and go slowly enough that the children can see the illustrations.

AFTER reading:

To reinforce the learning in **Mouse Paint** and have some fun too, have some cups of paint, a brush, and some paper hung where children can see as you “demonstrate” and read the following poem. Encourage the children to chime in with the color words as you read. Act out what the poem is saying with your paints as you say the words.

Color Surprises by Cindy Dingwall

*I took a blob of red paint,
Then I took a blob of yellow.
I squished and swished them all around
As far as they would go.
My red and yellow began to change,
And much to my surprise,
I saw those colors turn to orange,
Right before my eyes!*

*I took a blob of red paint,
Then I took a blob of blue.
I squished and swished them all around
Like I was told to do.
My red and blue began to change,
And much to my surprise,
I saw those colors turn to purple,
Right before my eyes!*

*I took a blob of blue paint,
Then I took a blob of yellow.
I squished and swished them all around
As far as they would go.
My blue and yellow began to change,
And much to my surprise,
I saw those colors turn to green,
Right before my eye*

Extension Activities

- **Art Activity** (This gives the students a chance to act out the above poem).
 1. Introduce the Primary Colors - red, yellow and blue.
 2. Talk about how by mixing colors you can get other colors

Red + Yellow = Orange

Blue + Yellow = Green

Red + Blue = Violet

3. Hand out white paper; have students choose two primary colors that they want
4. Have students put two drops of each color they chose on the white square paper
5. Students then fold the white paper in half and rub the paint around
6. Open the paper to discover what colors they made.
7. Repeat with other colors and allow to dry overnight

- **Snack Mice**

Demonstrate how to make a “Snack Mouse” before having the children begin.

Set out a piece of waxed paper with a sugar cookie on it for each child. Drop a spoonful of white icing onto each sheet. Have each child decide which “secondary” color he/she would like his mouse to be. (*orange, green, purple*) Discuss which two primary colors make each secondary color as needed, going back to the book for a reference. As you have shown in your demonstration, tell them to squirt a **few** drops of each color to the icing and blend the colors with the craft stick. Then spread the icing on their cookie with the craft stick. Finally, add raisin eyes and a nose, pretzel-stick whiskers, and gumdrop ears. Your “mouseketeers” won’t be able to resist these tasty mouse morsels!

- **Related Books**

Little Blue And Little Yellow

by Leo Lionni

Cat’s Colors

by Jane Cabrera

Warthogs Paint: A Messy Color Book

by Pamela Duncan Edwards