

Watercolour Animal Collage (3-5 yrs)

Links to the Early Years Learning Framework:

- **Outcome Four: Children are confident & involved learners**
 - Manipulate objects & experiment with cause & effect, trial & error, & motion
 - Transfer knowledge from one setting to another
- **Outcome Five: Children are effective communicators**
 - Engage in enjoyable interactions using verbal & non-verbal language
 - View & listen to printed, visual & multimedia texts & respond with relevant gestures, actions, comments &/or questions

Duration: 10 minutes reading book (approx.) & 15-10 minutes mixing colours (allow to dry completely, may take an hour or two), then 20-30 minutes constructing the collages (approx.), times may vary on how interesting the children find the activity

Size of Group: This activity works best with groups of six children

Materials Needed:

- Lightweight card stock or cardboard
- Coloured pencils or textas
- White craft glue, glue pot & brush
- Scissors (for adult use only)
- Liquid watercolour, eyedroppers & water pot (primary colours are best)

Background to Learning: From this activity children can learn about mixing colours, specifically what colours are a result of mixing certain colours, fine motor skills & collage art

Instructions: Begin by taking some time to read the book ‘Monsters Love Colours’ to the children, then sit the children down & allow them to use eyedroppers full of watercolour to drop onto the card stock, allow them to explore mixing the colours on the paper, comment on the result, ‘look blue and red together make purple.’ Then allow the paper to dry completely.

When the paper is dry, ask each of the children what animals they want to create, then ask them what part they want to be from the watercolour page they created earlier (eg. Cut a circle from the page for a head or body of an animal). Cut the shape the child specifies, allow them to glue the shape to an additional sheet of card stock, then allow them to draw the rest of the animal, using the coloured pencils or textas. When they have finished engage in conversation, ask them about what they have created & its characteristics, how many legs? Where does it live? What does it do? What does it eat? These wonderful creations can then be displayed (at a level where the child can view them, they can be turned into a card or shared with parents).