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Reach Out and Connect: Let's Get Messy! At Home Activities



In the 21st installment of the Reach Out and Connect workshop, the Reach Out and Read GNY team of Kristen, Kari, and Michael got together with Gabe, our trusty translator, to talk about some process-oriented art activities! Especially given that COVID-19 is keeping all of us inside, we figured that these activities would be a great way for the whole family to bond together by trying something new!

Shaving Cream Painting

This is great process art activity for preschoolers and toddlers. You need very few supplies to have a great time! And remember, don't be afraid of the mess once you get started – paint will wash off your skin, but the memories will last forever!

- Supplies
 - Shaving cream
 - Washable, non-toxic paints
- How to contain the mess
 - Use a newspaper or old tablecloth to cover surfaces
 - Use washable paints and markers
 - Have your kids wear a smock or old clothes
- Possible projects
 - Marble effect by creating a swirl
 - Paint in the tub
 - Finger-painting
- Check out this [great tutorial](#)



Slime

When it comes to kid's crafts, homemade slime is one of the best ideas! It's easy, inexpensive, and kids always love playing with it! It's fun for adults too!

- There are tons of recipes out there online, but [this tutorial](#) uses Elmers Glue, Baking Soda, Food Coloring or Soap Colorant, and Contact Solution! There are a few additional optional ingredients: Baby Oil to help it not stick to your hands, Moon Dust, and Fragrance Oil to make it smell good.



Jackson Pollock Art

Jackson Pollock was an influential American painter, and the leading force behind the abstract expressionist movement in the art world. He was well known for his technique of pouring or splashing liquid paint onto a canvas on the floor, sometimes called the 'drip technique,' letting him view and paint his canvases from all angles.

- Check out [this tutorial](#) for some ideas on how to do this at home!
- Just like Pollock himself, you and your family can use all types of materials, whether it be brushes, sticks, or pencils. This is part of why it's so fun!
- You can use this technique to paint all kinds of different objects, not only pieces of paper.
 - You could also use fabric paint to paint a tote bag, a hat, or a mask, or you can use this technique with food coloring and paint on sugar cookies!
- Also, read "Action Jackson," a great children's book about Jackson Pollock's passion and his work



Additional Resources

1. [Updated Literacy through Visual Arts Book List](#)
2. [Updated Literacy through Visual Arts Youtube Activities Playlist](#)

For any questions about the content or our virtual programming, please email Kristen Rocha Aldrich at krochaaldrich@reachoutandreadnyc.org.