



# OMSI EARLY LEARNER ACTIVITY: ICE CUBE PAINTING

**Objective:** Children explore color by using frozen cube of a paint/ water mixture to create art.

**Age Range:** 2 ½ & up

## CONTENT TOPICS

Art<sup>3</sup>  
Colors  
Matter<sup>3</sup>

## PROCESS SKILLS

Observing<sup>1</sup>  
Finding Patterns and Relationships<sup>1</sup>  
Cause and Effect

<sup>1</sup> Science Process Skills <sup>2</sup> Head Start Child Outcomes <sup>3</sup> Oregon Early Childhood Foundations

## TIME REQUIRED

### Advance Preparation

About 15 min

### Set Up

About 10 min.

### Activity

About 30 min.

### Clean Up

About 10 min.

## MATERIALS

**Required:** ice cube trays, liquid tempera paints, Popsicle sticks, foil, water, and construction paper

## ADVANCE PREPARATION

- The day before, fill ice cube trays with various colors of watered down tempera paints. Two colors can be mixed for a fun effect.
- Wrap the ice cube tray with foil.
- Gently poke a hole in the foil above each section. Then place Popsicle sticks in each section of the trays, and place in the freezer.

## EXPLANATION

*The following is a sample of some scientific explanations behind this subject. For more information see the books in the Discovery Box.*

- *Water has three different forms: **solid**, **liquid**, and **gas**.*
- *When water is frozen, it becomes **solid** ice.*
- *When it melts it becomes **liquid** water.*

## ACTIVITY PROCEDURE

1. Set out paper, as well as the frozen cubes of watered down paint. To prevent mess, places the cubes in bowls.
2. Urge the children to paint with the cubes.
3. At first, the colors will look like they are being drawn on the paper, but as the ice melts the colors will be painted on the paper.

## **DISCUSSION**

*To discuss the topic, explore the children's knowledge on the subject through open-ended questions.*

**Ask:**

What happens to your cube as you keep painting with it?

Does the paint look different on the paper as you keep using the cubes?

What colors are on your paper?

What colors did you make as you mixed two colors together?

How is this activity different from painting with a paintbrush?