

Art Medium Alternatives

Below are suggestions for art mediums that might work as substitutes for the project. These are just additional explanations of the art medium and ideas that students with parents might try making.

Oil Pastels

soft, easy to blend, "crayon-like" medium made with oils, rather than wax; alternatives: use a softening agent and a q-tip or small brush to blend alternative materials: use (baby or olive) oil with colored pencil.

Chalk Pastels

soft, smooth chalk medium; alternatives: sidewalk chalk or crayons or colored pencil (using the blending technique described with oil pastels).

Watercolors

watercolors - dried concentrated pigments that require water to apply the medium; alternatives: fruit/vegetable pigments (discarded portions) or old water-based markers, soak them in water overnight.

Charcoal

soft carbon medium for intense black "chalk" that is soft, very blendable, and sometimes used for transferring a sketch onto the project paper; alternatives: soft graphite (HB or 2B pencil), homemade charcoal, or black chalk.

Plant-Based Dyes

- Yellow: flower petals, peppers, citrus, beets
 - Orange: carrot, orange peels, yellow onion skins
 - Red: strawberry, beets, pomegranite, raspberry
 - Green: spinach, kale, swiss chard
 - Blue/Purple: blueberry, blackberry, red cabbage
 - Brown: clay, mushroom
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Homemade Watercolor Paints (adult supervision recommended with heated liquids):

Heated method:

- Stovetop: in a small saucepan, mix 2 cups of water with 1 cup of each fruit or vegetable; bring to a boil over medium heat; once boiling, lower heat to a low simmer for about one hour.
 - Microwave: heat 2 cups water (visible bubbling), add 1 cup of each fruit or vegetable, leave overnight.
 - Once liquid and fruit or vegetable mix is cool to the touch, strain the colored water into glass containers.
- Tip:* use discarded scraps of fruit and vegetables you cut up for meals to dye the water.
- *Cold method:* soak old dried water-based markers in water overnight.
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Homemade Thick Paints

- Make plant-based dyes (colored water).
 - In a small saucepan: boil 4 cups water and set aside.
 - In separate bowl: mix 1/2 cup cornstarch and 1/2 cup plant-based watercolor.
 - Add the cornstarch mixture to the boiling water and boil it for one minute while stirring. Let it cool.
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Paintbrushes

Tempera (stiff short bristle) and watercolor (soft long bristle), used to apply paints - alternatives: q-tips, corner of sponge, foam, cardboard, shredded strips of cloth or felt, broom bristles, yarn, pom poms.

Homemade Salt Dough (sculpture)

- Mix 2 cups all-purpose flour (or gluten-free flour) + 1 cup salt.
 - Add and mix 1 cup water.
 - Baking (optional): place on baking sheet in 150-degree oven. Turn frequently so they dry out evenly.
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Homemade Charcoal (adult supervision recommended with cooking or grilling)

- Collect a few twigs from outside.
- Loosely wrap the twigs inside a piece of aluminum foil.
- Poke a few holes in the foil to allow air to escape.
- Place the aluminum packet on a heat source (like a grill or oven at 350 °F) for about 30 minutes.
- Allow to cool.
- Open up the packet of blackened charcoal twigs.

Compound

Used for creating plaster-like texture - alternatives: starch paste (rice or flour + water) flattened salt-dough (for sculptural drawing effect), shaving cream, frosting

Additional Resources:

<https://www.instructables.com/living/howto/dyes/>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Nontoxic-Watercolor-Paint>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paintbrush>

<https://ardec.ca/en/blog/2/flour-paint-an-easy-to-prepare-non-toxic-long-lasting-and-dirt-cheap-exteri>