

No-Mess Painted Turkey

Thanksgiving means gratitude. And this no-mess craft is something to be grateful for. The once empty zip-loc bag becomes a template for a beautiful bird or a reusable mat for practicing letters, shapes, or even relieving stress. Read on to find out how!

Materials:

Paint: red and yellow (water-based is no-mess), additional paint colors are optional

Zip-loc bags: gallon sized preferred, quart or sandwich-sized are fine

Clear tape, heavy duty if you have it

White paper (and coloring tools) OR colored paper

Scissors

Gluestick or white glue



Directions:

Pour about two tablespoons of the red paint on one side of the inside of the gallon-sized zip-loc bag. Use one tablespoon of paint for the quart-sized bag. Repeat on the other side by adding the appropriate amount of yellow paint on the inside of the bag. Push out the air and seal the bag shut. For extra protection, add tape to help ensure the paint stays inside the bag. Have your helper place the paint-filled bag on the table. Then start to work the two colors together by moving the paint inside the bag through the top of the sealed bag.

This craft is all about keeping hands clean, which is uber helpful for children with tactile sensitivities. (And for those who just don't tolerate paint on their hands.) Keep massaging the two colors together and voila! You've created a new color, and the background for your fun. Add embellishments like feathers, eyes, beak, wattle, and feet to create a turkey. Felt, colored paper, construction paper, and googly-eyes will all work. The paint stays wet inside the bag and will provide continued interest.

Extension:

- ✓ Choose two **different primary** colors (red, blue, yellow) to mix and create another **secondary color** (orange, purple, green). Express yourself!
- ✓ One volunteer tried green and brown. What two (or three?) colors would you **recommend to blend?**
- ✓ Keep the gallon-sized mat as a **phonics station**. Students can trace letters or write words into their "mat" and erase by swiping their hands across the bag.
- ✓ Use at a **relaxation station**. Doodling is an excellent brain break.
- ✓ Share your creations on social media at **#littlechildrenBIGactivity**.

See the "I've been thinking..." section at www.joanruddimanedd.com for continuously updated content.