

## Tie Dye 2 Ways - Store Bought and Homemade!

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*Tie-dye kits can be expensive. If you're lucky and find one on sale – grab it, like we did. Or if the clearance fairies didn't grace your shopping trip, try gathering items that you might already have on hand. Heads up, tie-dye requires a few steps and some time. So, perhaps complete this activity at night or the end of the school day, and wake up to the excitement of unexpected results!!*

**Materials:** Use an **all-in-one kit**, or see below

Small saucepots and water

Blueberries or blackberries (blue dye) and tumeric (yellow dye)

Rubberbands, squirt bottles (or large plastic bowls)

Plastic wrap or resealable plastic bags, trash bags, or other disposable surface covers

Natural fiber cloth (white or light-colored cotton shirts, shorts, handkerchiefs, etc.)



### **Directions:**

- 1) Make **homemade dyes** by boiling one cup of water with 2 tablespoons of **turmeric** powder and/or boiling ½ cup of **blue or blackberries** in 1 cup of water. Upon boiling, cover and drop both pots to low heat. Simmer for an hour, then strain through a fine mesh, and let cool. Pour the solutions into squirt bottles. Funnels help!
- 2) Start the tie-dye process by rinsing the cloths in cool water or putting through the wash with a little soap. The material is wet when the color is applied.
- 3) Then use **rubber-bands** to bunch up the material. Create a **swirl design** by pinching the cloth and gathering it around that center point. Use a few rubber bands to keep hold that shape. Or make **lines** with an accordion fold. Then fold the cloth in the opposite direction to make a simple **plaid**. Scrunch and hold with rubber-bands to create a **splash** design. Anything goes, and expect unexpected results!
- 4) With the **presoaked cloth bunched and held**, make sure to protect your surface with a disposable cover! Put on gloves and prepare the store-bought dye.
- 5) Time to make the art. Squirt **dye** into the cervices of balled up clothes. Note: do NOT over-saturate or put the colors too close together!
- 6) Place the smaller tie-dyed items in a **resealable bag**. **Cover** the larger items in plastic wrap and **leave overnight**. (8-24 hours)
- 7) When it's time, remove the rubber-bands and rinse the newly dyed material in water, until the water runs clear. Then wash all the tie-dyed clothing separately once or twice to ensure the color stays where you want it.
- 8) Check out our **aprons on social media!** And as always, share your tie-dye art and clothing at **#littlechildrenBIGactivity**.