

# Imagination Fabrics

Dramatic play environments do not have to consist of expensive, store bought costumes, props and sets. In this activity, children will transform pieces of muslin fabric into open-ended props for imaginative play.

## Materials

- Two yards of muslin (or other light weight, inexpensive sheeting; available at local fabric stores)
- Oil pastels
- Blotter bottles and spray bottles filled with liquid watercolor or diluted tempera paint
- Rock salt
- Stamps
- Stamp pads
- Paint brushes in various sizes
- Smocks or old shirts

## Instructions

1. Read a book about color mixing or imagination such as *Harold and the Purple Crayon* or *Mouse Paint* together.
2. Make room to create and place materials. Try placing the muslin on a table, on the floor on top of a tarp or shower curtain, or taped to a wall to encourage different body movements and physical experiences.
3. Encourage the children to draw designs on the fabric with oil pastels or print shapes using the stamps before applying the paint.
4. Use the blotter and spray bottles filled with liquid watercolor or diluted tempera paint to add color to your art. Encourage conversation and ask questions throughout the process.
5. For a marble, stained effect, sprinkle rock salt over the wet paint. Once the fabric is dry, brush off the salt.
6. Use your imagination fabrics to start a “dramatic play props box.” Add additional props made of recycled and repurposed materials, costumes, and other creative materials that will inspire rich, dramatic play!
7. PLAY!

## Extension Activity

You can design different “prop boxes” to encourage dramatic play. Try picking a theme that will inspire creative play of all types. Ideas may include: the jungle, dancing, animals, flying, circus...options are endless!



## Goals

- Explore art materials
- Explore color mixing
- Use body movements to create artwork
- Collaborate to create a work of art
- Use imagination in open-ended play