

Fold-Out Butterfly (Symmetry) Painting

Ages 5-9 · 20 min · Small group

Learning intention

This experience supports children to investigate symmetry and pattern, and to make meaning through visual media.

You'll need

- Paper
- Assorted paints
- Paint brushes
- Smocks
- A water pot for rinsing brushes

How to do it

1. Fold a sheet of paper in half and reopen it flat.
2. Children paint a design on one half only - bold blobs of colour work best.
3. While the paint is wet, fold the paper closed and press gently across the surface.
4. Open it to reveal a symmetrical mirror-image. Talk about what 'symmetry' means and where we see it in nature.

Adapting for under-5s (EYLF v2.0)

When run with under-5s, this experience also supports children to begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.

Framework links

MTOP

- **4.2** Children and young people develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
- **5.3** Children and young people collaborate with others, express ideas and make meaning using a range of digital technologies and media and communication technologies

EYLF

- **5.4** Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work
- **4.2** Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating

NQS

- **1.2.2** Responsive teaching and scaffolding - Educators respond to children's ideas and play and extend children's learning through open-ended questions, interactions and feedback.

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