

Melted Crayon Art

This is crayon art with a twist: instead of drawing with them, why not bake them instead? The melted crayon wax creates beautiful, vibrant pools of color that your preschooler will love mixing and swirling to create fun and fascinating designs. No need to buy new crayons for this activity—just use all those broken, worn down crayon stubs that are sure to be floating around the house.

You can do this activity any time of the year, but it's especially fun in the summer. Instead of melting the crayons in the oven, just let them bake outside in the hot sun for a bit. Not only will you save energy, but you can use that time to talk to your child about how the sun is like an oven, and what makes it hot.

What You Need:

- Crayon stubs with wrappers removed
- Matte board (cardboard works fine too)
- Oven or hot sunny day
- Cookie sheet covered with foil
- Craft sticks or stir sticks

What You Do:

1. Unless you're planning on letting the sun do the melting, preheat the oven to 250 degrees.
2. Have your kid decide which colors she would like to use.
3. Once she has selected her colors, have her place the crayon stubs on the matte board. (Remember to remove all paper wrappers from the crayons before baking.)
4. Place the matte board on the foil-covered cookie sheet.
5. Place the cookie sheet in the oven for around ten minutes, or leave the arrangement in the hot sun to melt. If you leave the sheet in the sun, talk to your child about the heat of the sun and how the sun is similar to an oven.
6. Help your child remove the cookie sheet from the oven or the direct sunlight.
7. After the cookie sheet has cooled enough to be handled safely, but before the wax has hardened, have your child carefully push and swirl the melted crayon wax with the craft sticks to create a fun design.
8. She can now lay her canvas flat until the wax has completely dried.

Her melted crayon masterpiece is ready for display!

