



Paint Me a Picture

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Many of these activities are for children in a school setting, but they can easily be used at home as well. Most of them can be adapted for varying age groups, from the very young through primary grades.

Before Reading the Book

- Read the title of the book while showing the cover. Ask the children what they think the book will be about.

After Reading the Book

- Go back through the book, page by page, and review the feelings and emotions the author has associated with each color.
 - Discuss the examples with the children. Do they agree or disagree?
 - Ask if there are other ways this color makes them feel.
- Create a *Color Feelings* chart using a large piece of paper. Write each child's name on the left side.
 - Ask each child in turn which color they feel like today, and why. Write the response on the right, across from their name.
 - Have the children create something with art materials (such as, paper with crayons, colored pencils, markers or paint, dough or clay, etc.) to show how they feel.

Celebrating Colors

- Devote one day (or one week!) to each color. For example, on *Red Day* ...
 - Encourage the children to wear the color.
 - Provide red paper, red paint, red markers and crayons, red blocks, a red snack, and other red materials through the day.
 - Post the word red on the wall, and throughout the day encourage the children to find and use words that also start with an R, or words that rhyme with "red."
- Celebrate the rainbow
 - Introduce "Roy G. Biv" to the children as a way to learn and remember the colors of the rainbow in order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet.
 - If you have a prism, have the children hold it up to the sun to see the light divide into a rainbow.
 - Have the children make their own rainbow with finger paint or items such as colored pasta.
 - Outline a rainbow on a very large piece of paper mounted to the wall. Have children find colored materials such as food wrappers, rubber bands, bits of paper, etc., to tape or staple onto the appropriate arc.

Color Science for Older Children

Use the final spread as a springboard to an exploration of color.

- Primary colors
 - Provide items that are red, yellow and blue for the children to use in making collages of either all one color or a combination. Items might include scraps of construction paper, tissue paper, pom-poms, ribbon, artificial flower petals, foam shapes, etc.



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- Secondary colors
 - Provide red, blue and yellow finger paint, watercolors or poster paint.
 - Have the children mix two of the colors together to see what happens.
 - Have the children discover what happens if they add more of one color, less of another, etc. Discuss the results.
 - Other colors
 - Have the children mix three colors together and discuss the results.

Creating ART!

- Encourage children to create art regularly by providing a variety of art materials, including items such as play dough (store bought or homemade), clay, shaving cream mixed with glue, etc.
- Encourage children to let how they're feeling shape the art they make.
- Ask the children to tell you about what they've made. They may want to make up a story about it. You can write or dictate what they say to accompany their artwork. Older children can write their own thoughts or stories.
- Provide mural paper, rolls of paper or a plain white sheet for a cooperative work by several children.