

Episode 122: "Finally Nine" - Activity 22

Show your child how to create prints using bubbles. Materials that are needed for this project include paper, tempera paint, liquid detergent, water, plastic milk jug with cap, shallow baking pan, and straws that are not flexible. Prepare the paint for print-making by mixing these in clean, clear or opaque, plastic milk containers: 1/3 cup liquid detergent, 1/3 tempera paint, and enough water to create a milk-like consistency. Place the cap on the jug and gently mix the solution. Let the mixture sit overnight. Mix batches in several containers, using different colors of tempera if multiple colors are desired. You may want to make a container for each color for which your child knows the Spanish word: rojo (red), verde (green), azul (blue), amarillo (yellow). When ready to make prints, pour some of one of the paint mixtures into a shallow baking dish or aluminum pan. Place one end of a non-flexible straw in your child's mouth and the other end in the pan of paint. Have your child gently blow into the mixture to create bubbles. As bubbles accrue and reach the top of the shallow pan, ask your child to get a piece of "el papel" (paper) and hold it over the blown bubbles in the pan. Ask your child to predict what will happen. Stop blowing into the mixture. Remove the piece of "el papel" and turn it over to see what happened. (The bubbles should break on the paper and make interesting-looking designs.) Compare the results to what your child predicted would happen. Continue making bubble prints on "el papel" (paper).

Note: This activity requires close supervision, since young children enjoy making bubbles and can become quite carried away with the bubble-making fun. As a precursor, you may want to provide multiple opportunities for children to experiment with bubble solution to blow bubbles, so they are able to predict the behavior of bubbles and are not distracted by blowing into bubble paint mixture.

To extend this activity, use some of the bubble prints to create a wall story. A wall story uses children's artwork and adult-selected text to tell a short, simple story. (See example below.) Review the bubble prints created by your child and select six to eight pieces that can form a simple story; repeat limited-focus vocabulary and use one or more features such as pattern, rhyme, repetition, and rhythm. A wall story for bubble art might read something like this:

PAGE	ADULT WRITTEN TEXT	CHILD'S ARTWORK
Cover page	Popped bubbles!	Print of popped bubbles.
Page 2	Popped red bubbles.	Print of popped red bubbles.
Page 3	Popped yellow bubbles.	Print of popped yellow bubbles.
Page 4	Popped blue bubbles.	Print of popped blue bubbles.

Page 5	Popped green bubbles.	Print of popped green bubbles.
Page 6	Popped purple bubbles.	Print of popped purple bubbles.
Page 7	Popped bubbles are funny!	Print of of funny design of popped bubbles.
Page 8	Popped bubbles!	Print of popped bubbles.

As the title suggests, a wall story is initially displayed on the wall for a minimum of a week. (Later it is taken down and made into a book for continued reading use). Wall stories are designed to create and "I Can Read" attitude in young children, while developing a vocabulary base and familiarity with language usage and mechanics. Over the course of a week, you could use the story above to teach nine vocabulary words (including the high frequency word "are" and color words); the purpose of an exclamation point; the purpose of a period; the differences in capitalization on the cover page and the inside pages; the base words of "popped" and "funny"; and the tense difference between "popped" and "pop." While it is not expected that your child will master all skills noted above, continuous presentation of them and others through the use of wall stories (and other language activities) provides a motivating environment in which to learn to read and write.

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