

## Mosaic Window Art

**Summary Description:** Children create “mosaics” on clear contact paper with various colors of tissue paper.

**Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality:** Creative Arts – 1. Early Learning Expectation: Visual Arts. Children show how they feel, what they think, and what they are learning through experiences in the visual arts.

**HighScope Curriculum content:** KDI 40. Art.

Also: KDI 17. Fine-motor skills.

**HighScope COR Advantage items:** X. Art.

Also: J. Fine motor skills

**Time of day:** Small-group time

### Materials:

- Clear contact paper
- Tape
- Tissue paper of assorted colors and shapes
- Markers
- Examples of mosaic art reproductions from the DIA (for links to mosaics from the DIA, please see page 4)

**Definition:** A MOSAIC is a picture made from many small pieces of various materials.

### Vocabulary words/topics to focus on while conversing with children:

mosaic, assemble, color, size, shape, and texture.

**Beginning:** Talk with the children about the DIA field trip and show them the pictures of mosaic art reproductions. Tell them that today we are going to make mosaics using tissue paper. Give each child a piece of contact paper (ideally prep this activity in advance by taping a large piece of contact paper, with the sticky side facing out, for each child on the wall or window) and a small basket of tissue paper of assorted colors and shapes. Show the children how contact paper works like a sticker and say, “I wonder how you will stick your pieces of tissue paper to the contact paper to make a mosaic.”

**Middle:** Circulate and converse with children about the shapes and colors they are using and how they are arranging and sticking them to their paper. Describe and encourage children to describe the materials’ attributes, such as color, shape, size, and texture. Provide additional tissue paper pieces and markers as back up materials. Children may choose to use the markers to add details to their mosaic.

The chart below offers an example, at each developmental level, of what children may say and do, along with ideas for scaffolding (supporting and gently extending) their learning.

Scaffolding Learning at Each Developmental Level		
Earlier	Middle	Later
<b>Children may:</b> Explore the sensory properties of the materials: for example, children may crumple up and/or explore the stickiness of the paper.	<b>Children may:</b> Say something about the materials they are using, such as “This tissue paper feels smooth.”	<b>Children may:</b> Use the materials to make something representational, such as a human figure, animal, house, or building.

<b>Adults can:</b> Copy children's actions and describe what adults are doing: "I like to tear the tissue and press my fingers on the sticky paper."	<b>Adults can:</b> Acknowledge children's observations with a comment "Yes, this paper is sticky."	<b>Adults can:</b> Talk about the details children have included in their work.
<b>Gentle extension:</b> Ask children to describe the materials they are using and what they are doing so adults can imitate them.	<b>Gentle extension:</b> Encourage children to find other materials that are the same or different: "I see you have two squares in the middle, but one is made with two triangles that you put together."	<b>Gentle extension:</b> Wondering what other details children might include: point at a child's picture and say, "I see you used the markers to make eyes. I wonder what else you will use to make other parts of the face?"

**End:** Let children know when there are about five minutes left in the activity. Together with the children, put all the materials away. Encourage children to pretend that their feet are sticking to the floor as they move to the next activity.

**Follow up:** At outside time, tape large pieces of contact paper, with the sticky side facing out, on the fence or building and encourage children to find materials they want to use to make a mosaic and stick them to the contact paper.

### **Links to mosaics from the Detroit Institute of Arts:**

Viewing this as a printed resource? You can find the art pieces listed below by visiting <https://dia.org/collection> and searching for each art piece by name.

- [Quilting Time, 1986](#)
- [Mushhushshu-dragon, Symbol of the God Marduk, 604 - 562 BCE](#)
- [Roundel of Mosaic Tile, 15th - 16th century](#)
- [Mosaic Tile Wall Revetment, 15th century](#)
- [Fish, 4th century](#)