

# Parents and Prams

## Fun Stamping Ideas

Making marks on paper is a fun activity for children. Watch them make a range of impressions on paper with materials lying around at home.

After you've finished this activity, why not visit some of the latest exhibitions at Redland Art Gallery, Cleveland and Capalaba and spend time with your children talking about the different ways artists make impressions with their art.

### For this activity you will need:

- **Paper** (roll of paper, large sheets of paper or smaller sheets taped together)
- **Paint and paint palette** (a plate or muffin tray works fine)
- **Rags or paper towel for wiping fingers and stamps**
- **Pegs, wooden blocks, egg carton cups to use as grips for the stamps**
- **Scissors, glue and/or double sided tape**
- **Recycled materials** (old sponge, old toothbrush, cardboard roll, bubble wrap, cork, egg carton cups, bottle cap, corrugated paper, scrunched paper, string)
- **From the home** (fork, cookie cutter, Lego/Duplo, matchbox car with patterned wheels, pipe cleaner, cotton ball, cotton tip, elastic)
- **Natural items** (gumnut, flower, leaf, feather, shell)
- **Food** (pasta, lemon, apple core, corn cobb, broccoli floret or stem, mushroom)
- **Create original stamp designs with adhesive foam sheets and wooden blocks**



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This open-ended art activity has no model to follow but instead is all about enjoying the process and experimenting with a range of different ways to make marks on paper.

Feel free to initially show your children how to dip the stamps in paint, eventually tapping them lightly on a piece of scrap paper to remove any excess paint.

Then, follow their lead - experiment by dabbing, smearing, smudging or rolling to create interesting effects.

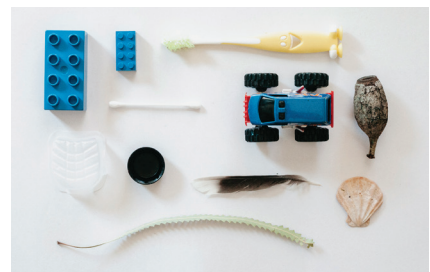
Let your child use their curiosity and imagination. They may use one stamp repeatedly creating patterns or use every single stamp provided once only.

There's no right or wrong, anything goes!

At the end of the activity you'll have a range of colourful paper you can use as wrapping to pack gifts for birthdays and other occasions.

### Tips for this activity:

- Have lots of paper handy and stick paper together for a large painting surface.
- Try laying the paper on the floor to allow free movement and exploration.
- Try using a peg to grip the stamps better. Adults can use a hot glue gun to stick a paddle pop stick, an egg carton cup or a cardboard roll at the back of the stamp.
- Offer a paintbrush to paint colour onto stamps as an alternative to dabbing.



### Prepare your stamps

Attach a cotton ball, bubble wrap, crumpled paper, pipe cleaner pieces at the end of a peg.

Cut sponges or foam sheets into simple shapes of your choice. You could hot glue them to cardboard pieces, egg carton cups or wooden block.

Wrap a rubber band around a wooden block or a cardboard roll.

Use vegetable scraps or cut some in half to discover hidden designs in food. If you're conscious of not wasting food, use only the scraps such as the stem of broccoli, apple core, celery stalks, carrot ends or a dried corn cobb.

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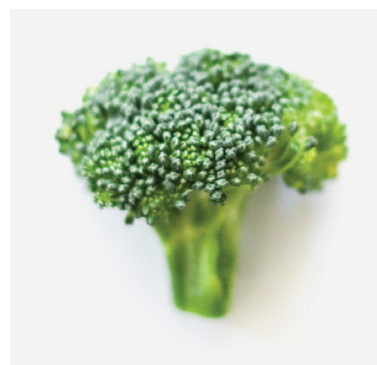
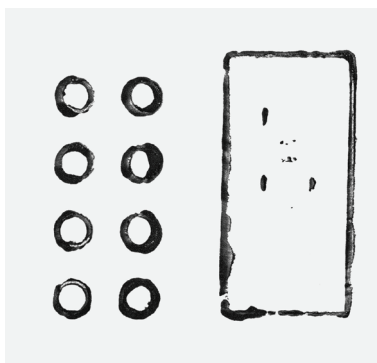


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# Matching Pairs Game

Below are examples of handmade stamps and the marks they make. Once you finish the stamping activity, cut around the boxes below and have fun matching the cards by pairs.



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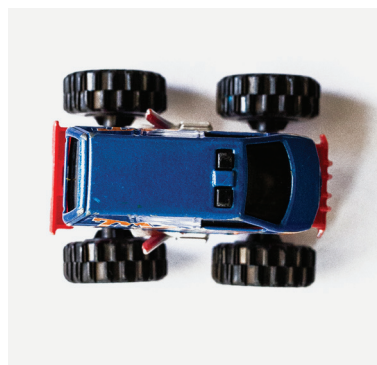
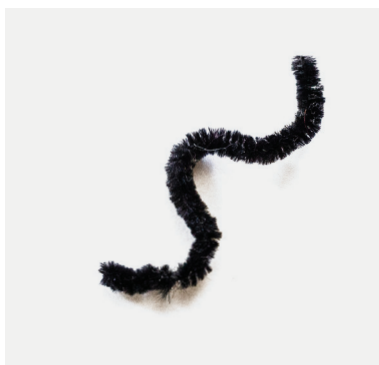
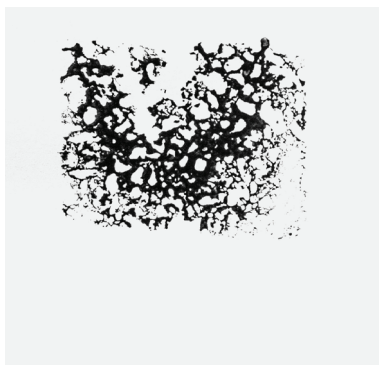
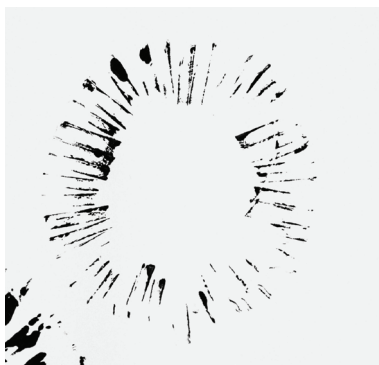
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Have fun and share your creations with us by tagging  
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