

Making Marbled Paper

*Note: This activity is messy but fun. Wear old clothes and use containers that are not used for food.

What you need:

- Several small sheets of paper
- Vegetable oil, olive oil or rice bran oil
- Plastic container (rectangular is best)
- Paintbrushes or eye droppers
- Newspaper
- Water
- Jars or small containers
- Oil paints (food colouring or watercolour paints can give a similar effect for younger children)

How it works:

The oil paint and oil are less dense than water and will therefore float on top. Oil does not dissolve in water. Food colouring or watercolour paints are more soluble in water so you will get a different effect.

Instructions:



- Half fill your container with water and put newspaper down to protect your table.
- Mix about $\frac{1}{2}$ a teaspoon of each coloured paint thoroughly with about $\frac{1}{4}$ a teaspoon of oil in small containers or jars.
- Use paintbrushes or eye droppers to dip into the mixed paint and oil and then dip into the container of water. Use generous amounts of paint.
- Repeat this process of dipping the coloured paint mixtures into the water container. You should notice the paint and oil are floating on top of the water.
- Use a brush or kebab stick to swirl the paint on top of the water, creating marbled patterns.
- Take your piece of paper and place it on the top layer of the water until it picks up the paint layer, then remove.
- Hang your paper to dry.
- When dry, make your paper into cards for your loved ones or a personalised journal or book.