



## Make a Masterpiece

### *Paint-sicles* with visual supports

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#### What you need:

- Freezer
- Ice cube tray or several similar-sized, plastic containers or cups—if you can, choose a size most appropriate for you and your child to grasp and manipulate.
- Colored pigment—this could be washable paint (tempra or watercolor), food coloring, or colored chalk crushed into a powder
- Water
- (optional) Scented extracts or ground spices
- (optional) Tin foil and something to use as handles—handles could be short popsicle sticks, small twigs, looped pipe cleaners, toothpicks, or the like
- (optional) Gloves
- White paper

**A note about playing with Paint-sicles:** Experiment for as long or as short as you like. You can keep leftover Paint-sicles in the freezer between uses. The more you experiment with your Paint-sicles, the more comfortable you'll be using them, and the more artistic your paintings will become!

## What you do:

### Part 1: Preparing the Paint-sicles

1.		Gather your materials.
2.		Place some colored pigment in each small container or section of your ice cube tray.
3.		<p>Mix a little water into your colored pigment, being careful not to dilute the color too much. Paint-sicles work best when they are deeply colored and fully saturated.</p> <p>The exact ratio of pigment to water will depend on the type of pigment you use. It's okay to try different amounts to see what works best for you. That is part of the experiment!</p>
Optional		<p>It is optional to add a few drops of scented extract or some ground spice to the colored water for some fragrance while you paint.</p> <p>Keep in mind that some ground spices will naturally add to or change the color of your Paint-sicle.</p>

Optional		<p>Adding a handle is also an option. To do this, cover the containers with tin foil. Poke one handle through the foil and into each container of colored water so the handle stands upright.</p>
4.		<p>Place the ice cube tray or the containers on a level surface in the freezer until the Paint-sicles are frozen solid, about 3-4 hours.</p>

## Part 2: Experiment and Paint

5.		<p>Lay out a sheet of paper on your work surface, and pop your frozen Paint-sicles out of the containers.</p> <p>If they feel stuck, warm the container with your hand or in warm water until they come loose. You may like to wear gloves while painting to keep your hands warm.</p>
6.		<p>Experiment using your Paint-sicles to paint on the paper. What do you notice about how Paint-sicles work?</p> <p>You might investigate questions such as: How many different kinds of marks can Paint-sicles make on my paper? How do the Paint-sicles change over time?</p>