

A watercolor palette with various colors (yellow, green, blue, red) and a brush are shown in the top right corner. The palette is white with several wells of paint. A brush is partially visible, and there are some watercolor washes on a piece of paper below the palette. The background is a light-colored wooden surface.

FAMILY *Paint Night*

AT HOME SUPPLIES

- Painters Tape
- Table Covering
- Cup for Water
- Paper Towels
- Glue Stick

SUPPLIES TO TRY LATER

- Rubbing Alcohol
- Rubber Cement
- Lemon Juice
- Saran Wrap

PREP WORK: BEFORE YOU PAINT

1. Only wear clothes you are ok painting in!
2. Cover your work surface.
3. Tape your paper to your work surface with painters tape, (or masking tape) with an even overlapping border all around.
4. Have all your supplies out and ready, including a cup of water and paper towels for cleaning your brush

A watercolor palette with various colors (yellow, green, blue, red) and a brush are visible in the top left corner. The main image shows a watercolor wash on a piece of paper, with colors ranging from pink to orange. The text "let's explore!" is written in a cursive font over the wash.

let's explore!

WATER COLOR TECHNIQUES TO TRY

- WET ON DRY - This one is pretty self explanatory- Using a wet brush, paint on your dry paper! You have control over where your paint goes and are able to get crisp edges this way.
- WET ON WET - Start by wetting the area of the paper you want to work on with a clean paint-free brush, then add your paint to the area. You'll notice your color will bleed out a bit, but this gives way to a wide variety of effects!
- CRAYON RESIST- White or Clear crayons applied to the paper before water and paint are applied stop the paint from adhering to the surface of the paper. Write messages, create designs, and watch them magically appear once you paint over them!
- SALT - Adding salt crystals over wet paint can create a variety of patterns. Experiment with rock and table salt to get differing results. Be sure to let the salt sit, undisturbed, until the watercolors are dry before brushing off to see the finished product.
- RICE - Scatter rice onto wet paint and leave to dry. The paint gravitates to the rice and leaves a negative print when it is removed.
- PIPETTE - This is a great tool to use any number of ways. Use it to dribble paint, swirl paint, create dots, or even help splatter. It's especially helpful with the Rubbing Alcohol & Lemon Juice techniques below.

A watercolor palette with various colors (yellow, green, blue, red) and a brush are visible in the top left corner. The main image shows a watercolor wash of colors (orange, pink, yellow) on a white piece of paper, with a palette and brush nearby.

Let's explore!

WATER COLOR TECHNIQUES, CONTINUED

- SARAN WRAP - Start by wadding up some plastic wrap loosely, and lay it over an area of bright color where water is pooling in some places. Leave it there until it's completely dry. When you remove it you will see some really cool shapes and lines formed by the colors pooling as they dry. This watercolor technique is a little unpredictable but makes some really cool textures and shapes.
- MASKING - You can use various materials for masking; tape, stickers, masking fluid or rubber cement. Once applied leave to dry if needed, then paint over. When your watercolor has dried, remove to reveal pure white areas below. So fun!
- RUBBING ALCOHOL - Rubbing alcohol has such a dramatic effect on wet watercolor paint, repelling it and leaving a perfect, lighter circle wherever you drop it. Use a pipette or a loaded paintbrush to drop the rubbing alcohol on to semi wet paint. The effect is an immediate ring in the watercolor paint.
- LEMON JUICE - Lemon juice has a bleaching effect on wet paint. You can drop it directly onto the surface or use it as a paint to remove pigment from more focused areas. Dropping lemon juice into semi wet watercolor paints doesn't produce such an immediate reaction. But if left to sit until it's dry the citric acid in the juice will bleach the colors of the watercolor paint producing super interesting shapes.

A watercolor palette with various colors (yellow, green, blue, red) is shown in the top right corner. Below it, a white paper features a watercolor painting of a rainbow-like shape with colors transitioning from orange to pink to yellow. The background is a light-colored wooden surface.

your masterpiece

YOUR PAINTED PERSONALITY PORTRAIT

- **THE PAINTING:** Step 1- This is all about exploring the art of watercolor, your own creativity, and having fun. Try a few of the techniques listed above and see what happens; there is no 'right way' to do this, and whatever happens, happens. If you make a mistake, we call that a 'Beautiful Oops!' and let it become part of your art. This watercolor will be the base of your personality portrait. Choose a few colors you like, or all the colors in the rainbow. Be sure to let your painting dry before gluing steps 2 & 3.
- **THE AFFIRMATIONS:** Step 2 - Share a little bit about you! Include in your kits are some affirmations/personality statements that are fun to glue on top of your painting along with your portrait. If none of these fit you, feel free to create and print your own at home, or even just paint them on yourself! This is all about you!
- **THE PORTRAIT:** Step 3- Your child has been photographed showing off their fantastic personality, and this photo can be used to add on top of their watercolor portrait. For participants in the family who were not photographed (siblings, parents, other family members) feel free to take an at home portrait and print on your home printer. All you need is a simple cell phone snap! If you can't print at home, alternatives are to collage some other things that show off who you are. This could be an already printed photo of yourself, your family, your pet(s) or perhaps grab a few magazines and tear out some images that represent you, your likes, hobbies, dreams - vision board style! Again, there is no 'right way' to do this!