

## **MAKE A SPLASH!**

After reading Deborah Freedman's book **Blue Chicken**, children may have fun telling their own stories with paint – while exploring color and the medium of watercolor.

### **Materials list:**

- Cardstock, watercolor, or other heavy paper
- Liquid watercolor or other watered-down paint, or colored ink
- Container
- Plastic drinking straw
- Paintbrush
- Old toothbrush
- Optional: plastic pipette or dropper
- Newspapers & smock

### **Directions:**

1. This will get messy, so wear a smock and cover your table or floor with old newspapers.
2. Pour some liquid watercolor or watered-down washable paint into a container, and drop a large blob of paint on your paper using a dropper, pipette, large paintbrush, or the straw (if you want to play with capillary action).
3. Blow on the paint through the straw. Be sure not to suck the paint up through the straw!
4. Now add splatters with the paintbrush. Experiment making different splotchy patterns and shapes.
5. Use your old toothbrush (and don't use it afterwards for brushing your teeth!) – while holding it in your fist, run your thumb over the bristles to create a fine, spray of paint.
6. And now you've made a splash!

(Note to parents and teachers: if you skip steps #5 and #6, this isn't too terribly messy. Children have tons of fun just blowing paint through the straw.)

## Questions:

- What happens when you blow through the straw – when you blow slowly? Fast? Did you experiment with changing the angle of the straw? How did that vary the resulting shapes and patterns of paint?
- What happens if you add a second color? When one color bleeds into another, does it make a 3<sup>rd</sup> color?
- How do the different tools create different effects?
- Look at the forms you've created. Do you see anything in them?

## What Next?

- If you want to go a step further, add to your painting. Draw on it or glue things on – any bits and scraps you have around, like tissue paper, yarn, etc. If you want to get fancy, feathers, googly eyes, and glitter are fun too.
- Tell a Story!
  - **Who** made this mess?
  - **Where**?
  - **Why**?
  - **What** happens next??