

## Print Lesson with Infants 'A Snuggly Cover for My Bed' Gemma Mc Girr

**Curriculum Strand:** Print (Visual Arts Curriculum p.20)

**Objective:** *Experiment with the effects that can be achieved with simple print-making (p.20)*

**Linkage:** Fabric and Fibre > *Make simple collages (p.23)*

**Integration Possibilities:**

**Oral Language:** *Experiment with descriptive words to add elaborative detail (p.18)*

**Science:** (1) *Observe and investigate a range of familiar materials in the immediate environment.*

(2) *Investigate materials for different properties (p.27)*

**SPHE:** *Recognise and record personal preferences (p.16)*

**Mathematics:** (1) *Identify, copy and extend patterns in colour, shape and size (p.26)*

(2) *Sort and name 2-D shapes: square, circle, triangle, rectangle (p.29)*

### Developing this Activity in Class:

**Materials Needed:** Paper (sheets of different coloured sugar paper give lovely effects)  
Blue, red, yellow, white and black poster paint  
Water containers  
Brushes  
Palettes and/or plates  
Corks, sponges of different textures, bubble wrap, old toothbrushes, nailbrushes, marbles, golf balls, lego, bottle tops, feathers, old spools for thread, clothes pegs, corrugated card, scrunched paper, fabric scraps, Brussels sprouts (cut across the middle), leaves, bits of cypress, leylandi or grasses, hand, fingers, in fact anything that can be dipped into paint to make a print!  
J-cloths (or old tea-towels/towels cut into face-cloth size)

**Stimulus:** "How does your bed feel when you wake up in the morning? What is snuggled all around you? Do you have a favourite duvet cover for your bed? What colours can you see on your cover? Is there a picture or pattern? Tell us about it. What are your favourite colours? Could you design a new cover for your duvet? What shapes could you use? What colours would you like on it? Could you make a pattern with shapes and colours? Could we use any of these (show children the array of found objects for print-making) to make the shapes and patterns? Think about the lovely cover you would like for your bed and decide what you would like to use to make that cover."

**Activity:** Allow the children to choose the coloured paper and found objects they would like to use to make their prints. Encourage them to mix colours and to describe the textures, shapes and patterns they are making with the various found objects. Ask the children to look at the prints when they are dry. They might like to add some detail with colouring pencils or crayons. When the children are happy with their prints, they sign them, just as artists do!

### **Evaluation/Looking and Responding:**

This will be happening as the children work. When they have finished give them time to discuss their prints. They will enjoy explaining how they got the 'new colours' by mixing the primaries and how they achieved the textures, patterns and shapes with the found objects. This could be done with the 'Artist's Chair', where children take turns to show and describe their prints. Display the children's prints in the classroom or corridor.

Encourage the children to respond to printed fabrics and to pictures of prints. These could include printed gift wrap, posters, pages of magazines, and limited edition prints that you may have yourself or can get on loan from libraries.

**Extension Activity:** The children could make big drawings of themselves in bed and use the printed page as the duvet. They could also make a collage of the cover using fabric scraps.

**ICT Possibilities:** Using the Paint programme on the computer the children could build up a repeat pattern of shapes and colours.

**Using the I Am An Artist DVD:** The *Print* programme for Infants on the DVD offers opportunities to see children making prints using a selection of found objects, emphasising texture, pattern and colour.

**Note:** Keep a few damp cloths on the tables as the children work. They are great for wiping excess paint off their hands there and then, and also for wiping up any accidental spills.

**Relevant Artists:**

**Relevant Websites:** The Kinderart website offers a range of lessons for teachers suitable for Infant Classes. Here are links to a few good ones –

(1) Print-making using fruit and vegetables.

<http://www.kinderart.com/printmaking/fruit.shtml>

(2) Print-making using tennis balls! I have used golf balls for print-making with Infants, this one sounds like fun too! I would suggest rolling the golf balls in the paint and then rolling them on the page, as opposed to 'dropping' them on the page.

<http://www.kinderart.com/printmaking/tennis.shtml>

(3) Print-making using the polystyrene trays we get fruit on in Supermarkets. It is very easy to follow and will give young children a basic understanding of relief print-making.

<http://www.kinderart.com/printmaking/styro.shtml>

The Washington Printmakers Gallery website offers images from several print-makers and information on print-making techniques.

<http://www.washingtonprintmakers.com/artists/macdonald.htm>