

# STAMPING WITH BRICKS

A CREATIVE ACTIVITY FOCUSING ON ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO USE LEGO\* BRICKS AIM: To discover all the shapes of a LEGO brick to make a picture

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

- Paper
- Inkpad or paint
- Various shaped LEGO pieces (circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, and more)
- Sponges (for cleaning the LEGO pieces between colours)

#### SET UP:

- Provide a variety of paper for the children to use white, coloured, textured, large, or small.
- Place a smaller square or rectangle piece of LEGO onto the LEGO piece you will use for stamping (this acts as the grip)
- If using paint, place just a small amount in the tray and roll out so brick gets an even spread of paint.
- Remember to position this activity near to where students can wash their hands or even the LEGO pieces, and hang their art work.

## **ALTERNATIVES & EXTENSIONS**

**Notes:** Every piece of LEGO has more than 1 side, and each side might be a different shape or even texture. Encourage students to explore all of these sides.

Note about the type of paint/ink to use: Make sure you use washable paint/ink. Test the paint/ink prior to allowing students to use it as you don't want to end up with 50 pieces of LEGO that are permanently discoloured and not able to be used again for building.

Here are some ways to change the activity...

- Square and rectangle paper is normal. Change up the activity and cut the paper into fun shapes, make circles, cut out an 'L" for LEGO, etc
- Change the material children stamp onto such as use wood, cardboard, or a mirror.
- Change up the colour ink/paint combinations at the activity.
- Search online for some basic LEGO Minifigure colouring-in pictures and get students to colour in the picture by using the stamps. Alternatively you could print off a variety of basic shapes for them to colour using stamps.
- Once the students have used this activity several times and are familiar with it, allow them to select the LEGO pieces they use.

Alternatively, you could change this activity completely by using a variety of LEGO bricks (DUPLO works really well), a spray bottle with water, and some dry concrete. Once confident at this, place down paper and add colour to the water.



Step 1: Set out some LEGO bricks on dry concrete in a fun way. If you make it into a 'face' you can turn this creation into a monster!

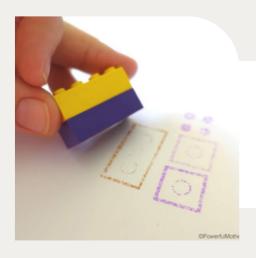


Step 2: Use a spray bottle filled with water and gently spray over the bricks.



Step 3: Take away the bricks and see what happened! If it is a hot day take a photo really quickly before it disappears.





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#### **RICH EXPERIENCES**

- **Experimentation** discovering the variety of uses of different mediums e.g. ink, paint, water to create images with. Exploring the bricks to find out how many different surfaces can be used and how they differ in their print patterns.
- Turn taking As the art area in most environments is restricted in space, children learn to take turns and wait while others have a turn first. Having a system where children can put their name up on a board and be called when there is a space helps children feel they won't miss out on the experience.
- **Being creative** this activity lends itself to the children being creative and exploring through different textures of medium. They use their imagination as well to create shapes and patterns on their artwork.

## LINKS TO CURRICULUM

## Te Whāriki

#### Mana reo - Communication

Children discover different ways to be creative and expressive

This links into the concept of art and being creative with bricks. Children explore and express their ideas using a range of materials and modes when they use the bricks in this way.

### Mana whenua - Belonging

Children feel comfortable with routines and regular events, understanding how things work in their environment but can adapt to change too.

This links to children having regular access to art supplies and experiences during their time in their learning environment and yet they are adaptable to the resources changing and being introduced to new art experiences including using LEGO\* in the art space.

### **New Zealand Curriculum**

## Art - Visual

Students will explore a variety of materials and tools and discover elements and selected principles.

This links to students exploring and experimenting with the bricks in different ways to create patterns. Using a variety of repetitive patterns and colours will create an effective piece of artwork. They may want to explore how they can make different textures with the paint using the bricks in different ways e.g. stamping, flicking, or smearing.

#### **Health and Physical Education**

Students will demonstrate respect through sharing and co-operating in groups.

This links to sharing the resources and taking their turn at the art table. Creating space for others to join, and leaving the art space clear so the next person can enjoy the experience with a clean surface, resources and paper.

Art has the power to transform, to illuminate, to educate, inspire and motivate

