

E. Storing Paint

Sometimes a painting project extends over a period of several weeks. If you have mixed more paint than was needed and you wish to save it, follow the instructions below.

- You may store larger quantities of paint in plastic containers or glass jars with tight-fitting lids to prevent evaporation. If kept for many weeks, the paint may take on a sour smell. Try adding a little peppermint extract to the paint to keep it smelling fresh. Paint mixed with liquid starch tends to keep longer.
- If the children will be mixing specific colors that they will want to use during the next lesson, these colors will need to be saved. At the end of class, simply close all the egg cartons, label each with the child's name and store the closed egg cartons until next class. The closed lid will minimize evaporation, and the paints will just need a little stirring before reusing. You might check a few egg cartons midweek, however. If some thicker paints seem to be drying, add a teaspoon of water to each color.

F. Care of Brushes

Store your brushes, bristles up, in a large can, or lay them flat. Never store the brushes with the bristles down. And do not leave the bristles soaking for long periods of time in a container of water. This could dissolve the glue that holds the brush together by loosening the ferrule (metal

tube joining handle to bristles). For the same reason, use only cool to warm water (never hot) when washing brushes.

G. Protecting Clothes

One of the simplest and best protective garments for a child to wear during a painting class, or any messy project, is a discarded adult-sized button-down shirt. The children can each be asked to provide one. Cut the sleeves (or have a parent do it) to just above the wrist and have the children wear the shirts backwards. They can help one another do up the top button at the back. If you're really ambitious, you may run an elastic around the sleeve ends.

