Family Activity

FAMILY ACTIVITY: WAX PAPER STAINED GLASS

In the past, pictures were often used to tell stories and pass on our histories. One way that these pictures were preserved was through the creation of images in stained glass windows.

In this activity, youth will use wax paper and sharpies to create their very own "stained glass" creations. Anything goes - use your creativity to use whatever shapes, colors & designs you want. When finished, hang in a sunny window. Additionally, youth will practice creativity, understand how everyday objects can be used to make uncommon things, and have the opportunity to learn about historical art/architecture.

MATERIALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Materials
- Wax paper
- Sharpie markers
- Tape (if hanging)

Instructions
1. Cut a length of wax paper (you can cut it to any length you want- may want to match to the size of your window).
2. Brainstorm or research a desired design- are there older buildings in your neighborhood or elsewhere with stained glass windows that you like and want to mimic? Feel free to sketch it out in pencil in advance.
3. With Sharpie markers, create your design, using different geometric shapes and a variety of colors.
4. When finished, hang your "stained glass" masterpiece in a sunny window using tape.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

1. Why did you create your stained glass like you did? What artistic elements did you use?
2. How does your stained glass make you feel?
3. Look up actual examples of stained glass - what do these stained glass creations make you feel/remind you of?
4. What are other types of art or architecture that people from other times have created?
5. What art will our generation be known for?
6. Why is our art important?
7. What story does your art tell?

IDEAS TO INCLUDE YOUNGER SIBLINGS! (ADAPTATIONS FOR 0-5 YEAR OLDS)

- Invite younger children to play alongside older kids with paper and crayons. Stay close and talk with them about the colors they use – pointing out where you see them elsewhere in the room (is she using red, and does she have red stripes on her shirt?)
- Notice how a little one holds their crayon. Don’t worry or try to change it – just notice – and see also how she makes marks on the page. You’ll see how eventually that grasp will change as fine motor skills develop. What do the marks on the page look like? Are they close together? Do they cover the entire page? Are there similarities in the shapes? Bring language to your interaction by describing what you see in as much detail as possible.
Preschoolers make marks with a purpose. Objects that they draw are more easily identified as people and things that are important to their lives (such as friends, family members and pets). They should be able to tell you what their drawing is about and love it when you take dictation – and add their words to the picture.