

# Toddler Art: Painting Sticks, Rocks, & Shells

## Learning Value:

This activity promotes development by encouraging children to use their senses to explore their environment.

## Materials Needed:

- ▶ Sticks
- ▶ Rocks
- ▶ Shells (if available)
- ▶ Tempera paint in small cups or a muffin tin
- ▶ Paint brushes with a small cup of water for cleaning the brush
- ▶ Newspaper, aluminum foil (or any table covering that can get paint on it)



## Participants:

This activity requires an adult to set up but children can paint without adult interaction.

## Directions:

**Step 1:** Find some sticks and rocks in your backyard or pick some up when you are taking a walk. You can also add shells if you have some available. Lay out the sticks, rocks, and shells on the table covering. **Caution: Rocks and shells should be at least 2 inches wide so they are not a choking hazard.**

**Step 2:** Squeeze different colors of paint either directly on the table covering, in small cups, or in a muffin tin. (Optional - If you don't want to use a cup of water for brush cleaning, use a different brush for each color. Encourage your child to match the paint on the brush to the extra paint that is the same color.)

**Step 3:** Allow children to use the paint and paint brushes to paint the sticks, rocks, and shells.