

Grasshopper STEM Engagement Programme

Spring 2014 Mid-term Break Primary School Science Camp – Belmayne Educate Together

For this year's mid-term primary school science camp the children investigated pigments. To kick start the camp they learned how to make poster paints from household materials such as chalk and food colouring. The children made an array of different paint colours by learning how to mix the primary art colours of red, blue and yellow. The paint products were put to the test and some beautiful works of art were produced.



The children also had the opportunity to make oil paints using coloured chalk and cooking oil. The children were able to feel the texture of the oil paint and see how its feel and consistency was different from the poster paint they previously made. The different colour oil paints that they made were then used to make prints. The children added a few drops of each colour into a large basin containing water and vinegar. Then placing a piece of paper momentarily on the surface the liquid the paint pattern that was on the surface of the water was transferred to the paper.



For the final experiment of the science camp it was decided that the children would make water based prints. This was achieved using food colouring, milk, dish detergent and coffee filters. The children noted in this experiment that when regular paper was used to extract the pigments the transfer was unsuccessful. This is because regular paper is resistant to anything water based yet this was not the case for the oil based pigments. When the regular paper was substituted to the coffee filter paper the results were fantastic. All kinds of beautiful prints were made and the children commented on how much more intense for the water based prints were compared to the oil prints.



For further information on the experiments please see the link below or contact theresa.hedderman@dit.ie

[Belmayne Experiment List](#)