Activity Title: Sponge Painting

Objectives:

- Creativity
- Sharing and collaboration
- Fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination

Materials:

- Paper
- Paint
- Sponges
- Stencils
- Paint trays
- Water
- Smocks
- Protective table covering

Methods:

Facilitator Preparation

1. Pour paint into paint trays; one paint tray per pair.
2. Cover table with protective materials (eg. Newspaper)
3. Set out all materials on the table. There should a variety of stencils for pairs to pick from.
4. Place a small container of water for each pair in front of their work area.
5. Prepare the participants by helping put on smocks before coming to the table.
6. Have adult and children paired together and sitting next to each other.

Intergenerational Participants

1. Each pair should work together to pick out a stencil they both like.
2. In each pair, one partner will hold a stencil in place on top of a sheet of paper while the other sponges paint over the stencil.
3. Partners should take turn painting and should work together to create their pictures.
4. In between colors, sponges should be rinsed in the water to avoid mixing paint. If children have a hard time doing this, have the adults assist and guide them to make sure all the paint is out of the sponge.
5. Wash your hands to get all the paint off.
6. Let paintings dry and hang around the room for decoration!
Special Considerations

- The paint and water can get messy fast! Make sure to closely monitor activity to try to prevent spills and messes!
- Encourage interaction between the pair; if the child is doing all the painting try to encourage the adult to paint some too.

Key Conversation/ Facilitation Questions

- What are some other types of painting?
- How does painting with a sponge look different from painting with a brush?
- What is your favorite color and why?
- Who is your favorite painter (aimed at adults)?
- What are some different shapes?

Extensions and Themed Activities

- Upward Extension
  - Instead of using stencils have different shaped sponges (eg. Triangle, square, diamond, etc.) and have participants make their own pictures.
- Downward Extension
  - Finger painting
- Related Activities
  - Paint with other household materials (eg. q-tips, cottonballs, toothbrushes, aluminum foil balls, etc.) and experiment with the different textures and patterns.