Activity Title: Watercolor Painting

Objectives:

- Creativity
- Fine motor skills/ hand-eye coordination
- Cooperation and teamwork

Materials:

- Watercolor paint (1 pallet for each pair)
- Paintbrushes
- Plastic cups with water
- Paper
- Paper towel
- Markers (optional)
- Smocks

Methods:

Facilitator Preparation

1. Set out brushes, paint, paper, a piece of paper towel and a water cup for each pair to use.
2. Pair up participants and help them put on smocks before sitting down.
3. Give instructions on how to properly paint and wash the brushes between colors.
4. Encourage discussion of their art during the activity.

Intergenerational Participants

1. Partners should discuss what they want to paint together before starting. If they want draw and then paint, use the markers to draw the outlines before painting with the watercolors.
2. Partners can work together painting using two brushes simultaneously or take turns painting using a single brush.
3. Make sure to clean the brushes using the water cups between colors! Use the paper towel to remove excess moisture from the brush before painting again.
4. When finished with the painting, let dry and then display around the room!
Special Considerations

- Arrange chairs to accommodate left- and/or right-handedness.
- Make sure partners are working together to paint.

Key Conversation/ Facilitation Questions

- What are you painting and why?
- What is your favorite color?
- What are some other types of painting?
- What is your favorite famous painting?

Extensions and Themed Activities

- This activity can easily be related to any theme or holiday! Have participants paint pictures related to the theme and encourage discussion!
- Upward Extension
  - Use various other craft materials to help decorate the pictures.
  - Crayon Resist Painting- draw parts of the picture using crayon. Draw the main parts of the picture with the crayon and use watercolor paints on the background. The crayon will repel the paints.
- Downward Extension
  - Use a pre-drawn pictures (like from a coloring book) and use the watercolor paint to color.

Credit:
http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/02/fashion/02parents.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnls=1354907697-S/hG2lyzX0EShybT8CBRkA