

LEGO® STAMPING

Process Art





LEGO® Stamping Process Art is an open-ended invitation to create unique stamps and print layers of colorful patterns onto a surface.

- **Ideal Age:** 3+
- **Mess:** Possibly stained fingers and bricks
- **Setup:** Under 5 mins
- **Work Time:** 20 mins
- **Grownup Help:** Mainly with setup & cleanup

DIRECTIONS

Set out a few LEGO bricks and DIY stamp pads and invite the little artist(s) in your life to stamp away! Build stamp “handles” with extra LEGO bricks for added control and pressing power.

SUPPLIES

- ❑ **LEGO bricks** (DUPLO® bricks might be easier for littler hands.) Any brand of building block will work.
- ❑ **DIY stamp pads** Make them by spreading tempera paint on sponges! (Of course, you can also buy stamp pads. Look for ones with washable ink. They're often available at dollar stores!)
- ❑ **Plain paper with a bit of padding beneath** (Layering something with a little squish under the paper, like craft foam sheets or felt, will improve the stamp quality big time. Other padding ideas: a padded tablecloth, 3-4 stacked paper towels, a bath towel, a t-shirt, a magazine, or even a section of newspaper. *Art Teacher Tip: Stamping directly onto a craft foam sheet will yield the best results! Plus you can wash the stamped tempera paint off afterwards for repeat fun!)



WORK SETTING

A clutter-free table or even the floor (uncarpeted, away from pets and toddlers) is ideal.

TIPS FOR THE FACILITATOR

<h3>SIMPLIFY</h3> <p>Provide just one pre-constructed LEGO stamp (handle added in advance), one stamp pad, and one large craft foam sheet.</p>	<h3>ENRICH</h3> <p>Provide a variety of LEGO brick sizes and shapes. Provide an assortment of colored stamp pads and offer varied colors and sizes of foam sheets or paper.</p>	<h3>EXTEND</h3> <p>Stamp LEGO bricks into slabs of playdough or clay. Look up artist Agnes Martin. Discuss, "How do you think she would approach this type of process art?"</p>
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POSITIVE OUTCOMES ARE MORE LIKELY IF YOU:

- ✓ Set some ground rules and model desired behavior.
- ✓ Set a 20 minute time-limit. Discuss what will happen when time runs out.
- ✓ Discuss clean-up time expectations before getting started.
- ✓ Keep markers and paper on standby as an alternative. Not every child will feel inspired by the presented process art materials. That is okay.
- ✓ Allow children the flexibility to stand, sit, lay, or move a bit while working.
- ✓ Allow children to talk freely with one another (or to themselves, or to you). Learners in early childhood are social and talkative, and a narrative impulse weaves through many of their activities. Rather than asking a child to explain a finished (or abandoned) project, listen for clues while they work.

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ONCE FINISHED:

- ✓ Take a photo and share it on social media!
- ✓ Close the stamp pads (or rinse the sponge pads if you went the DIY route) and rinse the building bricks.
- ✓ Leave the project out for a bit (if schedule and space permits). Sometimes an artist will feel inspired to circle back and revise or retry an idea.

USE THIS PROJECT TO OBSERVE A CHILD'S ABILITY TO:

- Follow limits and expectations
- Demonstrate fine-motor strength and coordination
- Demonstrate positive approaches to learning (engaging, persisting, problem-solving, showing curiosity and motivation, as well as being flexible and inventive)
- Recognize, recall, and make connections
- Think symbolically
- Explore and describe spatial relationships and shapes
- Demonstrate knowledge of patterns
- Demonstrate knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials
- Use tools to perform tasks



QUICK REFLECTION

Date:

Notes about this project:

What went well?

What could have gone better?

Ideas for next time: