

Unit 1: Our Community

WEEK 4

An extension to Color Mixing

Outdoor Learning: Art Easel: Color Find and Color Mixing

Children match colors outside and then recreate these colors by mixing paint.

Big Ideas	People in communities represent their experience and traditions through artistic expression. Communities interact with and are affected by their environments.
Guiding Questions	How do you most effectively communicate your thoughts, ideas, feelings, and traditions?
Materials and Preparation	• different colored paint chip or paint swatches, enough each pair of children to have one These can be obtained from hardware stores (at no cost). • tempura paints in various colors, including black and white • paintbrushes • small containers or jars with lids (e.g., baby food jars) • tray for mixing colors
Intro to Centers	Pass out the color chips and ask children to find something in the environment that is that color. Children work in pairs. Once they find their color they can announce what they found aloud. If it is a plant that is alive, they should not pick it but only look with their eyes. Gather the whole group to discuss findings. If children had difficulty finding the exact color, have them think about why that is. What can they do to show the color of what they found outside more accurately?

Outdoor Learning

During Centers	Children use the outdoor landscape as inspiration for new colors to mix. They might add white or black to make a tint or shade of the color or add a different color to get the exact hue. Once the colors are matched to the natural object, the children can use them to paint a picture of the object. The new colors can be stored in baby food jars and the children can name them (e.g., daffodil yellow, bark brown, grass green, etc.). These can be used throughout the year and new colors created as the seasons change.
Facilitation	• What are the colors we can find in nature? • How can you describe this color? • How can we change the paint colors we have to match the natural objects outside? What happens when you add white to a color? What happens when you add black to a color? What happens when you mix two different colors?
Extensions	The children can create a palette book by using an eyedropper to place a dot of each new color on sheets of a notebook. Under each dot, the children add a name for each color. They can keep the colors together that are in the same family or can arrange by the natural objects (e.g., flowers together, tree parts together, etc.) More resources for painting outside (Plein Air Painting): • En Plein Air: Painting Outside Like Monet - An easy method of bringing paint outside by replacing watercolors with tempura paint and attaching to a clipboard. No need to bring water outside.  The image shows a child's hands using a yellow brush to mix paint on a white palette. The palette is placed on a clipboard, which is resting on the grass. Several small jars of paint are visible next to the palette. In the background, there are some green apples and a blue bag, suggesting an outdoor setting. • Plein Air Painting With Kids - Makeshift easels (using sticks or cardboard) and other methods of easily bringing paints outside