



A Winter Gift



Collage works well!



How you decorate is very much up to you...but collage is a wonderful way to incorporate all the children's work on one cube!

You can first paint the sides of the cube (white emulsion first and then acrylic... or possibly 'bathroom' emulsion from the DIY shop) before collage.

Every child can draw a 'winter image'. Be 'culture aware' not every child in your class will celebrate Christmas -perhaps use the ideas in the story book. These images can be cut out and stuck down.

DON'T use felt pen to colour in - it will run and be damaged! Use pencil crayon (make sure they are not water soluble - some surprisingly are).
TOP TIP - if your photocopy budget will stretch that far - Colour photocopy the children's coloured in drawings (they can even be reduced in size to help you 'fit them it'). When these colour photocopies are used, the colours do not run!



The images can be stuck on using a good quality PVA glue. Put a thin layer of glue on the surface first with a fat brush, then place the cut out image on the surface. Finally brush a thin layer of glue over the top. The paper will usually crinkle a bit, but just smooth it as much as possible and as it dries it should be ok. **IMPORTANT** make sure you varnish over the top after it is totally dry as most PVA glue in schools is not water resistant, and will go horridly gunky if it rains!

A standard water-based waterproof varnish painted all over the surface (when it is totally dry) will seal the collage and ensure it is water resistant - all good DIY stores will sell this! *Check that the varnish is child friendly - it may be that the teacher needs to do the varnishing themselves.*

If it passes school risk assessments this is better to use than PVA glue.

Some artists who explore collage that you might want to look at with the children:

Henri Matisse, Eric Carle, Clare Youngs, Romare Bearden, Adriana Bermúdez.

The Victorians loved a bit of collage (decoupage) as well!



Remember if you are adding things like ribbons and bows, make sure they don't cover over a child's work on the collage.



Always make sure that paint/varnish and other materials you use have been risk assessed and the COSH documentation has been checked.

