



## LESSON 15 LEVEL A TOYS

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

painting with tempera from direct, close observation

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

construction or butcher paper, or newsprint at least 30.5 x 45 cm (12" x 18"); styrofoam egg carton or other containers with about 60 ml. (1/4 cups) of red, yellow, blue, black, white, green, brown and orange tempera paints; 10 cm (1/2") stiff-bristle brush; paint rag; water container; newspaper to cover the work area; cellulose sponge

**"TIPS":** This lesson provides the basic procedures for painting with tempera (opaque, water-based paint.) If you establish good work habits early, tempera painting can be a joy for the child with a minimum of set-up and clean-up.

1. Shake or stir the paints to get a creamy consistency. Add as little water as possible, to avoid drips and runs. Tempera is opaque, so that yellow can be painted over black, for example, **if** the black is dry and the brush does not scrub under the color. You can paint over mistakes if you wait for the base paint to dry.

## MY FAVORITE TOY



Raggedy Andy and Raggedy Ann  
Photograph by Kay Alexander

**A NOTE TO PARENTS:** Since most children draw and paint mainly from memory, they need help to observe carefully what they think they already know very well. Hold the young artist's favorite toy behind you. Ask him or her to describe it in detail, using comparison questions such as, "Is it larger or smaller than. . .?" How big is it? What is its shape? color? texture? proportions? Then, check by looking closely at each feature. . .was anything forgotten?

**GETTING STARTED:** Do you have a very favorite toy? Are you sure you



2. Children can learn to make small quantities of “in between”, new colors. If possible, buy tempera paints (or re-package them) in plastic containers with squeeze tops for easy pouring. A basic set of colors is red, yellow, aqua blue, royal blue, orange, green, violet, brown, black and white. Store paints tightly closed.

3. Use egg carton “palettes” instead of milk cartons or muffin tins. Squeeze out only spoonfuls of paint after shaking or stirring it well.

4. Teach (and re-teach!) the technique of dip, brush off the excess, and brush the paint onto the paper. Then, show how to rinse and wipe the brush on the paint rag when changing colors. Do it over and over, until it becomes a habit.

5. Protect work surfaces with newspaper. Have the child wear a smock over his clothes (an old work shirt with cut-off sleeves.)

The child’s first efforts will be exploratory, but with practice, you will be rewarded with charming results.

know it very, very well? How many things can you remember about how the toy looks? You will probably pay closer attention to the little things that make your toy special for you after you do this lesson.

1. Paint a picture of your favorite toy in a special place or activity. Make it as large as the paper will allow. Since tempera paint does not have many colors, you may use any colors you like.

2. Include the details that make the toy special and just yours.

3. What else could you put in the spaces that are left in your painting?



Natalie Age 5

**CLEAN UP:** Put the painting aside to dry. Wash and rinse the brush. Stand it on its handle in a container to dry. Wrap the egg carton in the newspaper and throw them away. Rinse any paint out of clothes before washing them in the usual way.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** Write one sentence about the painting on a strip of paper. Fasten it to the painting. Save it and future paintings for a special “book” of your own.

**CONNECTIONS:** There are many picture books about toys. Read some of these together. Then make up a story about your favorite toy.

