



MOSAIC GEM JARS

Materials you need:

These aren't really 'mosaic' craft in the true sense of the word but they do have a similar effect and are a good introduction to using bits and pieces to form patterns and fit together.

- Packets of stick on gems
- Clean recycled glass jars
- PVA glue watered down a little
- Paint brushes
- Different coloured tissue paper to tear into smaller pieces.
- LED tealights (optional)

Setup for play:

- Set all materials on a large table space and ask children to choose a jar (or use one they have brought in).
- Put the watered-down glue out in pots with the brushes.
- Show the children how to tear the tissue paper into strips and squares. Put aside.
- Cover the surface of the jar outside with glue then do 2 layers of tissue paper scraps making sure to overlap and fit together to cover the glass jar gaps to help add to the glow effect later. Do one thinner layer of glue over the top of the tissue paper to seal and add a gloss.
- While the glue is wet add sequins and gems (you can use the stick-on ones or just plain backs but stick onto jar before glue dries!)
- When dry pop a tealight candle into the jars and watch them light up the colours and shine through with a stained-glass effect!

What are they learning with this activity?

As they make their jars the children are learning to:

- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Use observational skills to look closely and notice details
- Express themselves creatively
- Increase fine motor strength, eye-hand coordination and dexterity
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project
- Problem solve to meet their needs
- Listen to and follow directions

Extending the play:

- Make stained glass murals with torn tissue paper and a sheet of baking paper (greaseproof paper). Make a mix of 2 parts PVA glue to 1-part water and brush it over the baking paper sheet (taping the paper to table makes it easier for children to work with). Arrange coloured tissue paper pieces on the baking paper by layering paper and glue and when they are happy with their art do one final glue wash over the top and leave to dry thoroughly. Hang on a window to get the stained-glass effect!

