

Collagraph printing

Art and crafts

Up to 60 minutes

(but can be longer or shorter depending on group needs)

You will need:

Card

Laminated sheets

Newspaper

Block printing ink

Rollers

Scissors

Glue, such as PVA

Pencils

A4 coloured paper

A variety of textured papers and materials, such as wallpaper samples, string, bubble wrap

One-to-one Dementia-friendly



Calming
Surprising
Physical

Collagraph prints are a creative and experimental form of printmaking, with printing plates made from many different materials, including cardboard, yarn, fabric, leaves, or masking tape. The activity is a great way to use up scraps and encourages the use of recycled materials.

To begin:

Trim down the card so it fits within the sheet of A4 paper. It doesn't have to be a rectangle; you can experiment and play with different shapes.

Then:

Take your textured papers and materials and start cutting them into shapes to form either an abstract or pictorial image, as if you were creating a collage. For pictorial images, you can take inspiration from magazines or postcards or set up a few objects. For those less confident with their dexterity, prepare some pre-made shapes of different textures and gather sensory objects like feathers, wool or sequins. These can be used to explore patterns and abstract forms.

Once you have your image or shapes, stick them down onto the card using plenty of glue. If you're using PVA glue, then allow for drying time – this could be a nice opportunity to have a break from the activity.

Next:

Squeeze out a small amount of printing ink onto the laminated sheet and rollout until tacky and matt in texture.

Place the cardboard onto a piece of newspaper and roll the ink over the image. To top the ink up on the roller, simply roll it over the laminated sheet again. Repeat until all the textured surfaces are covered in printing ink.

Place the coloured paper over the top of the card and press down firmly with your hands. This secures the paper to the surface of the card. Apply additional pressure with a clean roller.

Peel the paper away from the card and admire your print.

To finish:

Look at the different images you have created together. *How have different people constructed their image? Which results are surprising? Which textures create a nice effect? Are there any that don't work so well; if so, why may that be?*

Credit:

Charlotte Cranidge.
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