

BASIC SUPPLIES

Our goal is to keep it simple!
This is TinkerLab's recommended "get started" list. You can always add more as you go.

Washable Tempera Paint

Washable Tempera Paint is a creamy pudding-consistency paint. It often comes in stand-up bottles that look shampoo containers. At minimum, invest in red, blue, yellow, white, and black. [Link to Crayola Washable Tempera Paint.](#)

Sheets of white paper

Small sheets of office paper are useful, and BIG sheets of paper offer young children a large enough canvas to support sweeping art strokes and encourage fine motor skills to develop. [Link to Tru-Ray White Construction Paper \(12" x 18"\).](#)

Crayons

Crayons are a childhood art staple. Encourage a strong pencil grip by breaking wax crayons in half and use the short crayons to use the "tripod grasp." [Link to Crayola Wax Crayons 64-pack](#) and [Link to Noyo Gel 3-in-1 Washable Gel Crayons](#).

Liquid Watercolors

After paper and markers, these are easily the most used art supply at TinkerLab. So versatile, they can be used for painting and coloring playdough. [Link to Sargent Watercolor Magic set of 6.](#)

Playdough

Play dough provides children with opportunities for imaginative play and sensory exploration. Use our DIY recipe and squash it, roll it, build, and "cook" with it. [Link to TinkerLab playdough recipe](#)

Treasures

Treasures can be added to collages and building projects. Keep objects like feathers, sequins, buttons, and pom-poms in clear boxes or open containers. Be cautious when using small objects with young children.

Paint brushes

Fat brushes are easiest for most toddlers and preschoolers to handle. [Link to U.S. Art Supply large brushes in no-spill paint cups.](#) As your child grows, invest in a set of smaller brushes for detail painting. [Link to pack of assorted Crayola detail brushes.](#)

Glue

White glue is handy for making collages and slime. Also called PVA glue. [Link to 2-pack of Elmer's Washable School Glue.](#)

Washable Markers

The intense color of markers can provide children with a rich drawing experience. Since many children prefer markers to crayons, it can be beneficial to offer options. And, washable for obvious reasons :) [Link to Crayola Pip Squeak Markers for small hands](#)

Tape and Stickers

Small children enjoy the process of peeling and sticking, and sticky things are also great for building and inventing activities. Collect tape and stickers and/or invest in a fun pack of patterned Washi Tape. [Link to 30-pack of gold foil washi tape.](#)

Scissors

Child-friendly scissors for collage and building activities. [Link to blunt tip for little kids.](#) [Link to pointed tip for bigger kids.](#) [Link to left-handed pointed.](#)

Recyclables

Recyclables such as cardboard boxes, newspaper, popsicle sticks, and yogurt containers are FREE and help us do our bit for sparing the environment from new materials. Store in bags or large containers.