

Cartooning and More with Acrylics supply list

First I'll list the items you probably have around the house, then those you need to buy. If your child takes the class again in the future (it is different every time, and adapted to the students), you will, at that time, only need to buy the items that are used up. These are all professional-quality supplies that your child can continue to use on his/her own.

The time to buy supplies is after you find out that your child is definitely in the class, and before the classes start.

I will give approximate costs, many taken from Jerry's Artarama's and Dick Blick's web sites. If you order right after confirming your child is in the class, there should be enough time to buy the supplies mail order. Parents often have found some but not all items at stores, because the stores might have a small inventory or tend to stock only hobby-quality items. Stores with art supplies include Plaza Art Materials in Fairfax City, A.C. Moore, Jo-Anns, and Michaels. The paints are easiest to find in the stores.

I have ordered my supplies often from www.dickblick.com. Most of the time they are reliable. I have not ordered from Jerry's Artarama, but the prices and items were similar to those of Dick Blick when I checked. Dick Blick's prices are erratic. A price for an item can be different on the web and in different print catalogs. However, they will match other company's prices if you have the web site and item number and call them.

If finding supplies for painting seems a bit daunting, consider enrolling your child in the Cartooning and More Art with Pencils class, which has a simpler supply list. Email me via www.pbzproductions.com/classes/ with any questions.

household items

pencil

eraser that does not leave residue

ruler

a way to transport supplies

One-inch (or thereabouts) house painting brush, synthetic or bristle. Make sure the bristles look nice and even, and don't pull out.

Airtight plastic container that the palette (listed later) fits into (tupperware-type thing). Retire this from kitchen use.

container for water

paint shirt

rag

from art supply merchants (but look through what supplies you already have)

Ceramcoat acrylic paint: White, Black, Hippo Gray, Dark Burnt Umber, Dark Brown, Cardinal Red, Poppy Orange, Opaque Yellow, Jubilee Green, Vibrant Green, Ultra Blue, Liberty Blue, Purple. Colors with a different name that you already have may work but only if they are almost exactly the same.

We cannot mix brands. Incidentally, these are great paints to have around the house, as they can be used on paper, canvas, wood, metal, wax, and terracotta. Approximate cost: .70 to 1.49 each, depending on store and sale prices.

Ceramcoat gel blending medium. Approximate cost: \$1.49

14" x 17" (or thereabouts) archival quality (acid-free) HOT PRESSED (important!) watercolor block. A watercolor block is watercolor paper attached almost completely on all sides. This keeps it from warping when it's wet. Sometimes a store only sells Arches brand. This is a great brand, but much more expensive than others that are just as good. Look at the mail order sources. Approximate cost: \$20.

A second hot-pressed watercolor block and/or white cardstock. This will give the artist something to work on while the other main watercolor block is drying. This block can be smaller. Approximate cost: free, if you have cardstock around the house. For a watercolor block, \$8 for a small one.

At least two small round brushes of quality sable (established brands), probably sizes 0, 1, and/or 2. Brush sizes are not absolute. They are relative within a brand. Make sure the brushes come cleanly to a point. A short handled brush is easiest at this size. Synthetic brushes and poor quality sable brushes will not come to a point for more than a week of use, and are useless for painting detail. Look for medium or high quality sable brushes of at least two different sizes. Approximate cost: about \$7 each.

At least two larger flat brushes of sable or hog bristle (a stiffer, off-white bristle), sizes 10 and 16, or something similar. Make sure bristles do not pull out. You can get away with a quality synthetic brush at this size. You will probably only find long-handled brushes. Approximate cost: about \$6 each.

Two angular brushes, sizes 1/2" and 5/8", or similar. Make sure they are significantly different in size. I've only seen synthetics. Approximate cost: about \$6 each.

A "scruffy" brush. This is a brush, 1/4" to 1/2" wide, with separated bristles. It can be an old messed up brush, or a special brush such as those made by Plaid for one-stroke painting. Usually it is a Bad Thing when a brush's bristles are separated, but one scruffy brush is very useful for painting tree leaves and grass.

A few pieces of clear acetate, sold by art stores or as overhead transparencies (in Staples), 8 1/2" x 11" or thereabouts. A parent told me that she found overhead transparencies sold individually at the Staples copy counter. Approximate cost: a few cents each if you find a way to avoid buying a whole package.

Fine-line wet-erase marker. Sold by the package in Staples. There may be a way to get this individually. This and the previous item are for tracing. Approximate cost: about \$1 each.

Black transfer paper. This comes in rolls or sheets of paper with pencil-like carbon on them, and perfect for transferring images to a watercolor block, gesso board, wood, or canvas. (Optional) also white transfer paper, if you can find it. Transfer paper is available economically in rolls from mail order sources, but I haven't seen the rolls in stores, only single sheets. You need only one or two sheets. The same sheet can be used many times. Approximate cost: \$3.

Small latex gloves, for protecting the hands. We will be sometimes blending paint with fingers. The gloves need to fit fairly snugly. It is hard to fit children, but the small adult size may work. Mail order sources may have snug child-size latex gloves. Approximate cost: about .20 per pair, but usually comes in a package.

Something to transport brushes with. I have found that homemade solutions to this don't work (or maybe I didn't find it), and brushes get damaged. Also allow for both short-handled and long-handled brushes. I recently bought the Plaid Essentials brush mate, a long plastic container that holds both sizes of brushes in a rigid box. Approximate cost: \$7.50.

Ceramic palette with six to eight reservoirs. Nothing works better for acrylics. Approximate cost: \$8.

Palette knife. This is for mixing paint on the palette. It is flat, and a different creature than a painting knife. Approximate cost: \$2.

(optional) Master's brush cleaner (a very small container of this is fine). This cleans brushes better than just water. Approximate cost: \$3.

(optional) Stretched canvases and/or gessobords. You might want to wait until the student is planning a painting, or get one or two small ones ahead of time. I have found the best canvases to be Vincent Masterwrap. The canvas is wrapped around the frame, and the construction of the wood frame is better than that of Fredrix (the most common brand). Prices vary.