Ice Cube Painting

Objective: Children explore color by using frozen cube of a paint/water mixture to create art.
Age Range: 2 ½ & up

PROCESS SKILLS
Observing
Finding Patterns and Relationships
Forms of Matter
Cause and Effect

TIME REQUIRED
Advance Preparation
About 15 min
Set Up
About 10 min.
Activity
About 30 min.
Clean Up
About 10 min.

MATERIALS
Required: ice cube trays, liquid tempera paints, Popsicle sticks or clothespins, foil, water, and construction paper
ADVANCE PREPARATION
- The day before, fill ice cube trays with various colors of watered down tempera paints. Two colors can be mixed for a fun effect.
- Wrap the ice cube tray with foil.
- Gently poke a hole in the foil above each section. Then place Popsicle sticks in each section of the trays, and place in the freezer.

EXPLANATION
The following is a sample of some scientific explanations behind this subject.
- Water has three different forms: solid, liquid, and gas.
- When water is frozen, it becomes solid ice.
- When it melts it becomes liquid water.

ACTIVITY PROCEDURE
1. Set out paper, as well as the frozen cubes of watered down paint. To prevent mess, place the cubes in bowls.
2. Invite the children to paint with the cubes.
3. At first, the colors will look like they are being drawn on the paper, but as the ice melts the colors will be painted on the paper.

DISCUSSION
To discuss the topic, explore the children’s knowledge on the subject through open-ended questions.
Ask:
What happens to your cube as you keep painting with it?
Does the paint look different on the paper as you keep using the cubes?
What colors are on your paper?
What colors did you make as you mixed two colors together?
How is this activity different from painting with a paintbrush?