

# Family Day Art Activity

## Hand-printed Watercolor Stickers

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Decorate your water bottle with hand-printed watercolor stickers you will make yourself! We recommend you read through the instructions or watch the video first, and then follow along:

<https://vimeo.com/606668136>



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### What You'll Need:

- Your favorite water bottle
- Chipboard
- Cardstock
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Printmaking paper
- Sticker paper
- Glue
- Painter's tape
- Watercolor set and paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Printing spoon
- Clear packing tape



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This activity was created by Tyler Green, the education and community programs manager at Highpoint Center for Printmaking. Share photos of your creation by tagging **@artsmia** on social media or email your pics to [familyprograms@artsmia.org](mailto:familyprograms@artsmia.org).

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# Instructions

Using a pair of scissors, cut a 2x3-inch rectangle from the chipboard. Then, with a pencil, trace its shape onto the bottom corner of a piece of cardstock. Cut this out.

Now, draw your design on the cardstock. Try to keep the design simple.

**TIP!** Think about how you will separate your design into two to four shapes, keeping in mind that each shape will be cut out individually. For this activity, Tyler drew a simple butterfly. There are three shapes in this butterfly: two wings and a body.

Carefully cut out the pieces of your design.

Reassemble the cut pieces on the 2x3-inch chipboard you cut earlier, and glue them in place.

**TIP!** Printmakers call this a “plate” or “matrix.” Keep in mind, your design will be printed in reverse, so make sure to flip anything you don’t want to be printed backward—words, numbers, symbols, or geographic shapes.

Glue the chipboard, with your design, to the larger piece of cardstock paper.

## Now for printing!

Start with a 2x3-inch piece of white printmaking paper or sticker paper. Place it on top of your printing plate or matrix and tape one side to the plate, so the paper can open and close like a door on a hinge. If using sticker paper, make sure you tape it sticker-side down.

Now you can start using watercolor paint to print!

Paint one section of your design. Apply a thin, even layer. Before it dries, “close” the printing-paper door and press down in small circles with the printing spoon. Peel back the printing paper (keeping it taped down) and repeat this step for each section. If a section dries before you can print it, or you don’t like how it looks, simply reapply paint and print it again.

Try out different colors and layering of patterns—sometimes an experiment can become your favorite!

Once you have made all your prints and they have dried completely, it is time to put them on the water bottle. Waterproofing the sticker is important, since the paper will not hold up to spills.

If you’ve used printing paper, put a piece of clear packing tape sticky-side up on your work table. Carefully put the print face down over it, leaving about a half inch of tape at the top. Stick it to the bottle. Use a second piece of tape to cover the bottom of the print, making sure the tape overlaps the print all the way around. Trim off excess tape. If using sticker paper, apply the sticker to the bottle first, then use the packing tape to seal and waterproof your design.