Scratch-and-Sniff Paint

Add a sensory twist to your paintings with homemade scratch-and-sniff paint. This fun craft will bring your art to a whole new level.

Suggested Ages - Early learners

Guiding Questions -
- What are your 5 main senses? What body parts relate to each one?
- Can you name one thing you can taste? Two things you can smell? Three things you can hear? Four things you can touch? Five things you can see?
- What happens when your paintbrush touches the paper? Can you use the paintbrush in different ways to make the paint look different?
- What happens if you mix colors?
- What does your painting smell like when it’s dry?

Materials -
Small containers, spoons, water, white glue, flavored gelatin, paper, paintbrush, newspaper or similar to put underneath the painting (recommended), food coloring (optional)

Activity Instructions -
- Get one bowl or other small container for each type of gelatin you have. Empty egg cartons work great. In each container, combine 1 tsp. of flavored gelatin with 1 tsp. of warm water.
- Add 1-2 drops of food coloring to brighten colors as desired. (optional)
- Add 3-4 drops of glue to each container. You want just enough to make the mixture spreadable with a paintbrush without making it glob up.
- Set up your artist’s station, making sure to protect the surface underneath your painting.
- Paint away! Thick paper works best, as the paint has a watercolor-type consistency.
- Let your paintings dry overnight. The next day, scratch the paint and see what it smells like.

Extensions -
- Take a white crayon and draw a picture on a white sheet of paper. Then, use your scratch-and-sniff paint to color over your drawing. What happened?
- Create a card for someone with the scratch-and-sniff paint. See if they can guess what each color smells like.
- Try painting a picture with each type of gelatin, depicting what it smells like. Example: use strawberry-flavored gelatin to paint a picture of a strawberry.