

# Making Tie Dye T-shirts<sup>1</sup>

## A resource for tutors/teachers to support the Home or School Based Summer Programme

### Learning objectives:

This activity builds skills in 'Learning to Learn' specifically developing effective task analysis and organisational skills, communication skills and literacy. It is also a fun activity that can build on a child's creative strengths and interests.

Key skills include:

- Oral language – discussion and vocabulary development
- Literacy – develop the ability to read/ watch and follow simple instructions in the correct order
- Art – exploration of colour and pattern, develop an understanding of primary and secondary colours

### Introduction

#### General discussion:

- Discuss the student's favourite colours.  
*\*You could expand the discussion with older pupils by discussing the colour wheel (primary and secondary colours). They may wish to mix colours to create their favourite colours.*
- Explore different tie dye prints and colours by watching video 1/2/3 of the tie dying process (video 1 provides three simple options- the swirl, the rainbow and the rock spot design, video 2 is one option for younger children, video 3 provides more colours and options for older children)/ read the written instructions provided.  
*\*Videos with captions available are listed in resource section for pupils who are deaf and hard of hearing.*
- Ask each child to choose a pattern and colours they would like to use.

### Development

- **Gather materials** - Table salt, Dylon in different colours (can be purchased from a pharmacy)/ dyes from a craft shop, t-shirts, hair bobbles/ elastic bands/ strings, stones (if child picks rock

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spot design), squeeze bottles (optional – available in Tesco and Mr. Price), rolling pin/ fork, potatoes and cookie cutters (if a student wishes to do a shape)

- **Dye the t-shirts** - Dye the t-shirts by following the video instructions or the written instructions available below

## Conclusion

- Write or create audio file of instructions/ create a photo diary (differentiation) on how to tie dye.
- Have a tie dye day where everyone wears their shirts and discusses patterns and colours.

## Resources

### 1. Videos Links

Video 1: This video is suitable for older students. It is available with captions for children who are deaf and hard of hearing (press cc button on right hand corner of the video)

[https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+tye+dye+tshirts+for+children&rlz=1C1GCEJ\\_enIE916IE916&oq=how+to+tye+dye+tshirts+for+children&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i22i30j0i390i3.7539j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=Bd-5YK6xOpqU8gLZyqbYCw16](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+tye+dye+tshirts+for+children&rlz=1C1GCEJ_enIE916IE916&oq=how+to+tye+dye+tshirts+for+children&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i22i30j0i390i3.7539j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=Bd-5YK6xOpqU8gLZyqbYCw16)

Video 2: This video is suitable for younger children. Captions are also available for deaf and hard of hearing students

[https://www.google.com/search?q=youtube+how+to+tye+dye+tshirts+for+children&safe=strict&rlz=1C1GCEJ\\_enIE916IE916&ei=Bd-5YK6xOpqU8gLZyqbYCw&oq=youtube+how+to+tye+dye+tshirts+for+children&gs\\_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAM6BwgAEEcQsANQ0d4rWLTtK2Cx7ytoAXABeACAAZUjiAG9EJIBBzAuOC43LTGYAQcGAAQgAQdnd3Mtd2l6yAEHwAEB&scient=gws-wiz&ved=0ahUKEwjux8Lawv3wAhUailwKHVmlCbsQ4dUDCA4&uact=5#kpvalbx=3eG5YPHBJ4zJgAboj5-oCw14](https://www.google.com/search?q=youtube+how+to+tye+dye+tshirts+for+children&safe=strict&rlz=1C1GCEJ_enIE916IE916&ei=Bd-5YK6xOpqU8gLZyqbYCw&oq=youtube+how+to+tye+dye+tshirts+for+children&gs_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAM6BwgAEEcQsANQ0d4rWLTtK2Cx7ytoAXABeACAAZUjiAG9EJIBBzAuOC43LTGYAQcGAAQgAQdnd3Mtd2l6yAEHwAEB&scient=gws-wiz&ved=0ahUKEwjux8Lawv3wAhUailwKHVmlCbsQ4dUDCA4&uact=5#kpvalbx=3eG5YPHBJ4zJgAboj5-oCw14)

Video 3: This video has the most options and colours so it is most suitable for older children. There is also just music so no captions available.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS3QsQWWFy8>

## **2. Written Instructions (Swirl Pattern only)**

### **Step 1 – Picking the t-shirt**

The shirts that work best are 100% cotton. You can also use 50% cotton/50% polyester but the results will not be as vibrant. A 100% polyester garment will not dye properly.

### **Step 2 – Picking the dye**

You can purchase dyes from an art shop or alternatively use Dylon which is available in many pharmacies (follow instructions on the packet).

### **Step 3 – Gather your materials**

Table salt, Dylon/ dye from a craft shop, t-shirts, hair bobbles/ elastic bands/ strings, stones (if child picks the rock spot design), squeeze bottles (optional – available in Tesco and Mr. Price), rolling pin/ fork, potatoes and cookie cutters (if a student wishes to do a shape), zip lock bags.

### **Step 4- Soak the t-shirt**

Soak the t-shirt in warm water for 10 minutes and squeeze out the excess water once soaked.

### **Step 5- Pick a pattern (swirl)**

Place the rolling pin, (or your finger, or a fork) in the centre of the shirt and start turning clockwise until you have a nice flat pie shape. You can also turn counter-clockwise if you prefer, it makes no difference. Try to keep the t-shirt flat using your free hand (do not leave it to move up the rolling pin/ fork).

### **Step 6- Add the rubber bands**

Place several bands on the t-shirt to keep it in the swirl shape. Try to also keep it flat.

### **Step 7 – Dye your shirt**

When doing the actual dying bit, you will need to cover your working surface with plastic. Something like a plastic table cloth will work fine. You also need to wear old clothes, old shoes, etc. The dye will stain your clothes, the floor, the walls, the ceiling, etc. So if you are not working outside please be careful. The dyes are harmless to your skin, but if you don't wear rubber gloves you will achieve red, yellow or blue dyed hands, which won't wash off.

Treat your circular swirl like a pie chart and dye some sections on each colour e.g 1/3 red, 1/3/ blue and 1/3 red etc.

Die both sides of the t-shirt

### **Step 8 – Waiting**

Place your t-shirt in a zip lock bag and leave it to develop (a couple of hours is best – if they can wait that long!).

### **Step 9 – Wash and dry**

Run the shirt under cold water until the water runs clear (a lot of die will come off but this is normal). Hang the shirt up to dry.