

Painted Flower Pots

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If summer vacation is making your children stir crazy and you're looking for an activity to entertain them with on a rainy summer afternoon, doing a craft is a good way to burn a few hours off the day. Children love to paint and creating painted flower pots will bring out the artist in any kid. The added benefit to this project is that you can then spend a sunny afternoon planting a small flower garden in the painted flower pots once you've finished the activity.

There are new ceramic activity stores designed especially for pottery painting, but these places can become expensive if you have more than one child. Why rent supplies and space in a store when you can set up your own artist's workshop in your own kitchen? All you need are some old newspapers to cover any furniture your children will be painting on, some old shirts for the children to wear to protect their clothes, a few flower pots and paint. Most supplies needed for pottery painting can be found in any hardware store or garden center.

Once your children are ready to paint, encourage them to let their imaginations run wild. Traditionally, painted flower pots are usually decorated with pictures of flowers. This is an obvious choice. Since you're designing your own custom flower pots, why not paint an abstract scene or a picture of an elephant? You could also find stencils for your children to use as a guide for their artistic vision. They can also paint freeform by spelling out their names or drawing any shape that comes to mind. The goal of the project is not to create the most beautiful painted flower pots in existence but rather to immerse your children in a creative art project.

Once finished, the painted flower pots will be susceptible to fading unless you have them fired and finished. There is a way to do this yourself, but your best bet is to find a professional to finish them for you. It usually only takes a couple of days to seal and coat the pieces and after you pick them up they will be ready for planting. One thing to remember is that once the painted flower pots are fired and sealed, the paint will appear darker and richer than when originally painted. This is a normal part of the process, but some people are surprised by how different the color appears when first completing this kind of craft project.