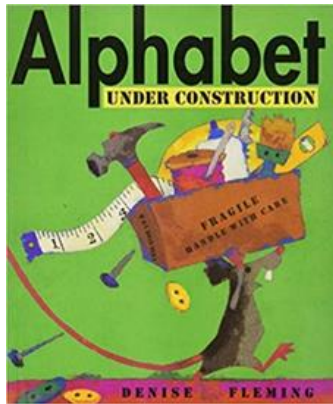


 **tiny**
THURSDAYS...at home!

Enjoy Tiny Thursdays at home! Explore a DAI artwork, watch a virtual read-aloud story, and then follow along with project instructions found below!

Construction Clay Initials



Description: young artists read about the shapes of letters and “construct” their own initials from clay!

Story: [“Alphabet Under Construction”](#) written and illustrated by Denise Fleming (Square Fish; 2006)

Let’s talk about this artwork!

- What do you see?
- This artwork is mostly made up of straight lines.
 - Point to a place where the lines touch.
 - Can you find lines that go from left to right across the artwork?
 - Can you also find any diagonal lines?
 - How many triangles you can find? (Hint: look where the lines meet!)
- Can you find the person who is working?
 - Do you think they are building something small or large? What do you see that makes you say that?



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Materials Needed

- 1) two: 1 oz. Crayola® Model Magic®*
- 2) two or more: markers
- 3) nut, bolt, and/or screw

*To make clay, use *Tiny Thursdays* instructions found [here!](#)



Project Skills

- 1) Fine / Gross Motor:
 - a) dyeing
 - b) sculpting
 - c) assembling
- 2) Language development
 - a) expressive: speaking
 - b) receptive: listening
 - c) discussing
- 3) 21st-Century:
 - a) creativity
 - b) problem-solving
 - c) collaborating

Project Instructions

- 1) Open one package of Crayola® Model Magic® and split it in half.



- 2) Color one half of the Model Magic® with marker. **Knead**, or work the clay around in your hands, the material, squishing and folding and pulling it to work the color into the clay. Repeat until you have your desired color.



- 3) Roll your clay into a tube shape by rolling over it with your palm on the table. Repeat with remaining pieces of Model Magic® until you have desired colors.



- 4) Pull off a portion of each of your colored Model Magic® pieces (about 1/3) to use for later.



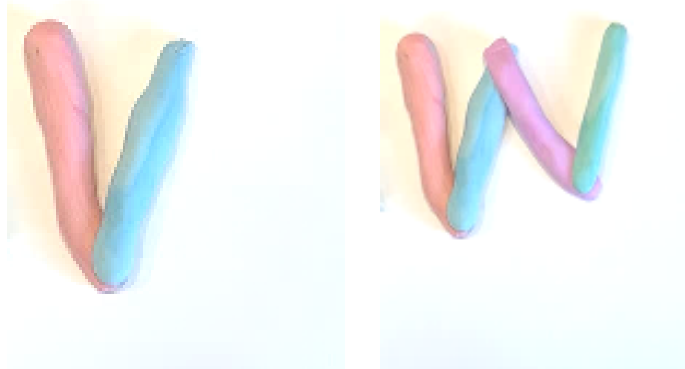
- 5) Our first *initial*, the first letter in our first name, is the letter A. This letter has two straight lines that lean towards each other and touch at the top, and a shorter straight line that connects in the middle, about halfway down. We used a different color for each line.

Helpful Hint: think about how the first letter of your name is constructed. Is it straight or curvy? Or a combination? If you had to take it apart, what pieces would you have?



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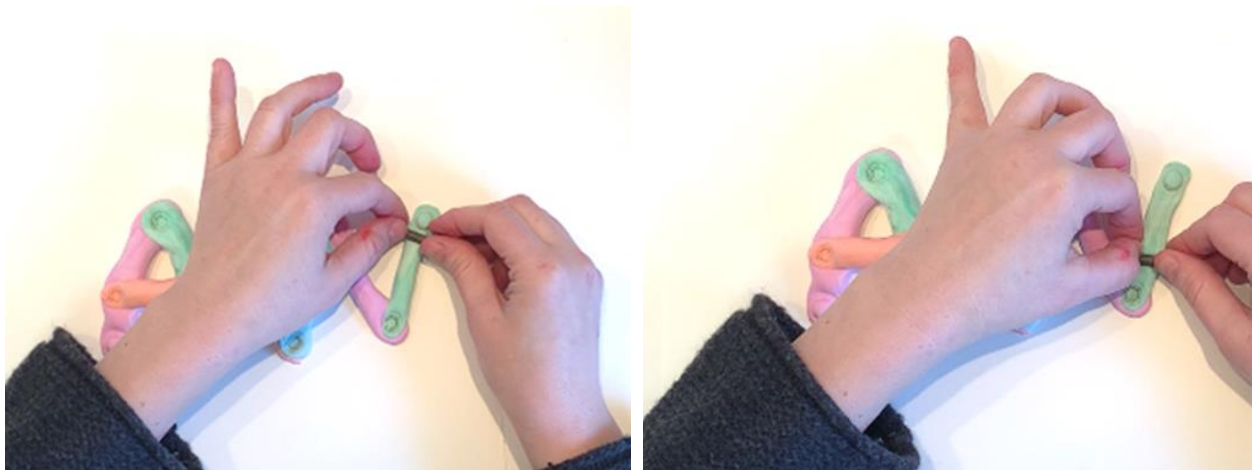
- 6) Construct your second *initial*, or the first letter of your last name, by laying out the pieces of that letter.



- 7) Use the end of a screw, bolt or nut to press down into the space where the layers of your letter overlap. It will make a cool imprint!



- 8) Turn your screw or bolt on its side. Roll it across the sections of the letters that aren't connected. Or choose another tool to imprint with!



Have time for a [short survey](#)? Let us know how you're enjoying Tiny Thursdays...at Home!

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- 9) If desired, pinch the ends of letter angles to make them pointy.



- 10) You have constructed your initials! What other letters can you make?



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Questions about or ideas for Tiny Thursdays at Home? Email edu@daytonart.org