

C. Mixing Paint

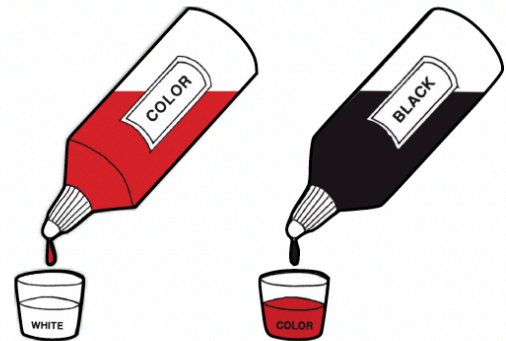
Tempera paint can be purchased *pre-mixed*, in *block* form, or as a *powder*. **Tempera paint is recommended** for most children's painting classes because it is easy to use, easy to mix, and easy to clean up. It provides vivid, opaque color and is nontoxic.

If you can afford the luxury of buying pre-mixed paint, you are already well on your way to being prepared for painting class. Commercially pre-mixed tempera in its handy squeeze bottles is mixed to a smooth, thick consistency and is available in a wide range of colors.

When mixing tempera from powder:

- 🕒 Create a smooth consistency similar to that of thick cream. If the paint is too thin, it will run when working at an easel. Thicker paint provides a bolder color.
- 🕒 A thick paint with a smooth consistency can be made by using liquid starch instead of water when mixing powdered tempera. Mix equal portions of liquid starch and tempera. Then carefully thin with water—but only if necessary.
- 🕒 Always add liquid to powder, not powder to liquid. Then stir or shake.
- 🕒 When mixing white with a color to lighten it, **add the color** (only a few drops!) **to the**

white instead of adding white to the color. (Done the other way around, you could end up wasting paint.) To darken a color, **add a few drops of black to the color.**



D. Distributing Paint

Set the pre-mixed paint (whether purchased or hand-mixed) on a table that will act as a central paint-supply station. In a project involving many colors, try to provide *red, blue, yellow, green, brown, purple, orange, black, and white*. Plastic condiment squeeze bottles make handy containers for distributing paint to the children.

Call the children to the paint-supply station in small groups, letting them choose their own colors. In a large class, you may want to set up two or more stations.

Egg cartons work well for the children to use as palettes. The depressions in the cartons hold just enough paint so that the children can mix colors in them; yet, little paint is wasted when unused portions are discarded. The open lid makes a good tray on which to lay paint brushes or a paper towel blotter.