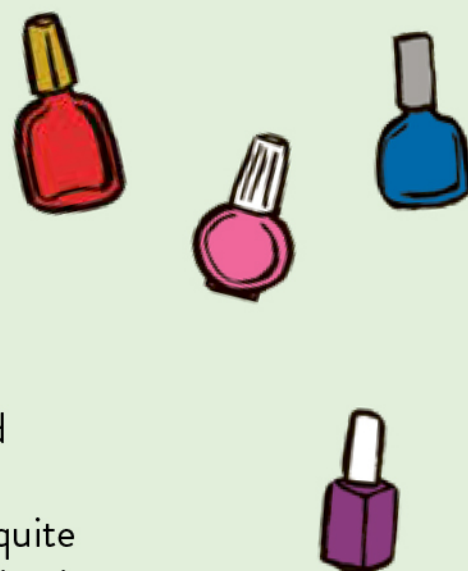


PAIN-T-FREE MARBLING



Marbling is very rewarding – you get results quickly and they are quite unlike anything you can create by hand. What is unique about this art activity is that you never quite know what the end result will be. This sense of anticipation is great for kids to experience. When you've tried it out a few times, try not to marble everything in sight. It is tempting, but you may live to regret it!

WHAT YOU NEED

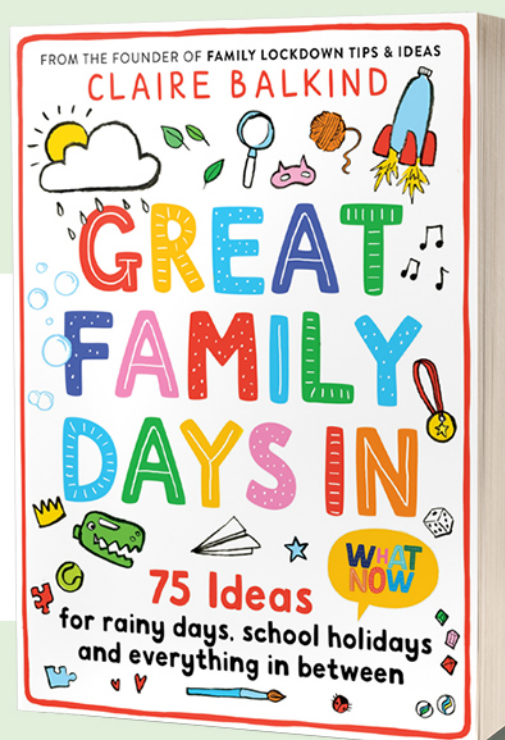
- Nail polish in a few different colours, the runnier the better
- A tub or mixing bowl of warm water, around half full. The nail polish will float on the water and so shouldn't damage the bowl, however I'd use something you don't mind getting a bit dirty.
- Small, hard, clean objects to marble such as a plastic pot, cup, coaster or candle. When you've done it once, I'm sure you'll see how it could work on other items you have around your home.



AS FEATURED IN

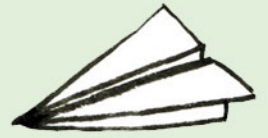
**GREAT FAMILY
DAYS IN**

BY **CLAIRE BALKIND**



HOW IT WORKS

1. Put your bowl of water on a flat surface. Place some kitchen roll or an old cloth beside it to catch any drips and to lay your creations on to dry when finished.
2. Using the wand of the nail polish, swirl different colours of nail polish into the water. A few broad strokes, circles and dots is particularly good to get a varied pattern on your items.
3. Gather together the small glass or plastic items you don't mind experimenting on, and slowly dip them into the water and let the nail polish catch onto them. Help your kids to swirl them around so that you've gathered the nail polish on the sides – and there you go. You might want your kids to wear rubber gloves for this stage, just to keep little fingers away from the nail polish. My top tip is to try to roll any flat surfaces on the water first, rather than dipping in corners or points.
4. You'll probably need to add more nail polish after each dip, depending on how big the items are and how much nail polish they attract. Experiment with colour combinations and patterns on the water to see what effect this has on different surfaces.
5. Make sure you put your new creations on display. You might also like to take some close-up photos on your smartphone to really admire your masterpieces and to share with friends.



SHORT OF TIME?

Try shaving foam marbling, which is super simple. Spray the contents of a can of shaving foam into a shallow dish or baking sheet, add droplets of food colouring and swirl it around with a cocktail stick to create a pattern. Press a piece of paper gently on the top, letting it absorb the colour, and then carefully peel it back and scrape off the shaving foam with a spatula or dry cloth. Instantly, you'll have something ready to frame, draw on, cut up or use to decorate greetings cards.

