How To Do Styrofoam Printing With Kids

MATERIALS *high-lited materials are linked to Amazon for purchase

- **Thin paper, such as copy or printer paper, for the initial drawing**
- **Pencil**
- **Styrofoam (we used pieces cut out from the bottom of meat trays, but you can also buy styrofoam sheets specifically for printmaking)**
- **Water-based printing ink**
- **An acrylic box frame or a plate (for spreading ink)**
- **A hard rubber brayer or small paint roller (brayers can be purchased on Amazon)**
- **White paper (we used watercolor paper this time but often use a smoother paper such as sulphite paper)**
- **Spoon**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut paper
To begin, cut the thin paper to be the same size as the styrofoam sheet you'll print with.

2. Draw design on paper

Then, draw a picture on the thin paper first. This step is optional, but it means you can draw a few different designs before choosing which one you want to print. It also makes it easier for younger children to transfer their image to the styrofoam.

3. Trace drawing
Hold the drawing in place over the piece of styrofoam and trace the drawing with a pencil. You can also use the pointy end of a paint brush, a chopstick or something similar. **Press down firmly, but evenly while tracing the image.**

4. Assemble printmaking materials

Gather together a brayer, an acrylic box frame or piece of plexiglass, (two colors of block printing ink, blank cards (watercolor paper folded over), a spoon, and the styrofoam plates (drawings).

5. Ink the brayer

Squeeze some ink onto the plexi frame and spread it around with the brayer. Once the brayer is coated with an even layer of ink, roll it over your styrofoam drawing.

6. Print the design on paper
Position the styrofoam on top of the paper or card and use a spoon to rub over the paper to help transfer the design.

7. Let dry

This activity can be found on the “Artful Parent”
https://artfulparent.com/styrofoam-printmaking-with-kids/

Here’s a link to Mr. Otter Studio on how to make Styrofoam prints:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCjQXse8eB0