

Mary Cassatt

“Women Admiring a Child”

Submitted by Shari DeCarlo and Tony Kless, 2012

I bought a tri-fold board, the kind kids use for science fairs, and water colored the top half blue and the bottom yellow, to emulate sand and water, as in the painting. Then we gave every child a blank paper doll (we cut these out ahead of time), and asked them to decorate it to represent themselves as they would dress for the beach. We gave suggestions that they could dress in a style like the painting, or in more modern clothes, or even scuba gear. Most kids chose to do a modern take, one colored himself to look like Aquaman. One of the girls went old fashioned and put herself in a dress.

Once the kids completed their paper dolls, they were free to come back and choose other "beach items" to add to the painting - fish, starfish, beach balls, even a pirate ship. Dolphins and sharks were popular choices.

I think this project was VERY successful. We left the art in the classroom so the kids could have their own "Children on the Beach" painting. I would like to mention that if someone else were going to try and do a similar project, they could use a large poster board - which is much cheaper, but a little smaller.

