SIMPLE PRINTMAKING
Creating cardboard prints 3 ways

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for family at-home learning
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Simple Printmaking with Cardboard in 3 Versions

You will use a variety of thin cardboard (can cut with scissors), a heavy cardboard for backing, glue, scissors and string to create a “plate”. The prints will be created by rubbing with crayons.

1. First, brainstorm simple ideas for your design. Chose one and sketch it out on paper.

Keep your idea simple! I eventually had to eliminate my textured pea idea.

2. Transfer your drawing to your heavy cardboard background with pencil. Go over it with marker. Then trace your drawing onto lightweight paper to make a pattern. If your design is simple, skip the pattern and draw out the shapes on lightweight cardboard.
2. After drawing your shapes onto lightweight cardboard, cut them out. You may want to double your layers to create different heights (I made my pea pod double so that it was higher than the peas).

Note: Corrugated cardboard can create interesting texture, but it was too confusing for my peas...important to test your textures with a crayon rubbing before gluing down the cardboard!
3. Heavy string or cord can be used to create line patterns. Glue all of your parts down to the backing board and allow to dry overnight.

4. When glue is dry, lay a sheet of paper over your “plate” and hold it in place carefully. Rub the back of the paper with the side of your crayon – you may wish to layer more than one color.
Version # 2: Subject with incised lines: Dinosaur!

Follow the same directions as before, except use a sharp pen to make deep marks (incise) to add detail to your work. With a parent’s help, a small knife may be used for this.

Here is some help with drawing a dinosaur:
Notice that I made a pattern for this one – just draw HARD over your drawing onto the lightweight cardboard and you will see where to cut.

The pencil lines were incised into the dinosaur before getting glued down.
Lay the paper carefully over your plate.

And rub with side of crayon – see how the incised lines show up?
Version # 3: Printing large shapes and adding details with other implements: Butterfly!

Here is the basic butterfly, cut out of lightweight cardboard.

Then it is mounted onto backing with glue.
The rubbing shows the basic shapes.

And the details can be added with pencil, colored pencils, markers, whatever you have handy.

Needless to say, you and your child can make MANY prints from your plates.