

Face and Body Painting: with Caran d'Ache

Water-soluble Wax Pastels

Here are some tips for face painting, passed on to us by people who have painted thousands of children's faces. Although Caran d'Ache water-soluble wax pastels do not have official cosmetic approval, they are accepted by the hobby and toy industry, which means kids can get them on their skin and even eat them without harm. Be aware they are not hypoallergenic and a child may still react to them, although in our 25+ year experience, this has not happened. Obviously, care should be taken around the eye area.

To build a useful little kit of Caran d'Ache, put these items in a small lidded container and you are ready for face painting:

- Caran d'Ache set of 10 wax pastels.
- 2 or 3 extra black ones (the most used colour). Black outlines make designs stand out nicely.
- A sponge or other soft make-up applicators.
- A small water pot as your water must be changed often. (A Masterson Rinse Well is also handy. It dispenses clean water while draining away dirty water quickly and easily. This compact unit is ideal for outdoor events, when no fresh water source is nearby.)
- Liner brush: for details and long, flowing lines.
- ¼" angle brush, which can produce interesting ribbon-like effects that appeal to children.
- At least one small mirror.
- A pump dispenser of antibacterial soap to clean tools and pastels before starting the next fresh young face.

When you first open your set, peel-back of each wax pastel. To remove the hard, waxy coating, take a slightly damp paper towel and gently rub the tip until you see colour. Now the pastels are activated and ready to use.

Before painting, wash the child's face or wipe with antibacterial hand wipes such as *Wet Ones* to remove oils and sun lotion. *Note:* Paper towels are more durable for wiping and cleaning than tissues.

Caran d'Ache wax pastels can be sharpened with a regular pencil sharpener but only when the crayon is dry; otherwise, it may be too soft and break. Save your shavings from sharpening, broken pieces and small leftovers. Use them to create pans of colour.

- Collect individual colours in a microwave-safe palette. (We have a suitable, heavy-duty plastic palette). Do you recall accidentally melting a box of wax crayons because they were left in a hot car in the summer? It does not take much heat to melt a crayon!
- Microwave your palette for only about 10 - 15 seconds.
- BE CAREFUL! The liquid wax pastel will be VERY HOT so resist the temptation to touch.
- Use a plastic palette knife gently to shape the colour into a flat cake.
- Voila, you have made your own pan set of face paints for use with brushes and sponges.

