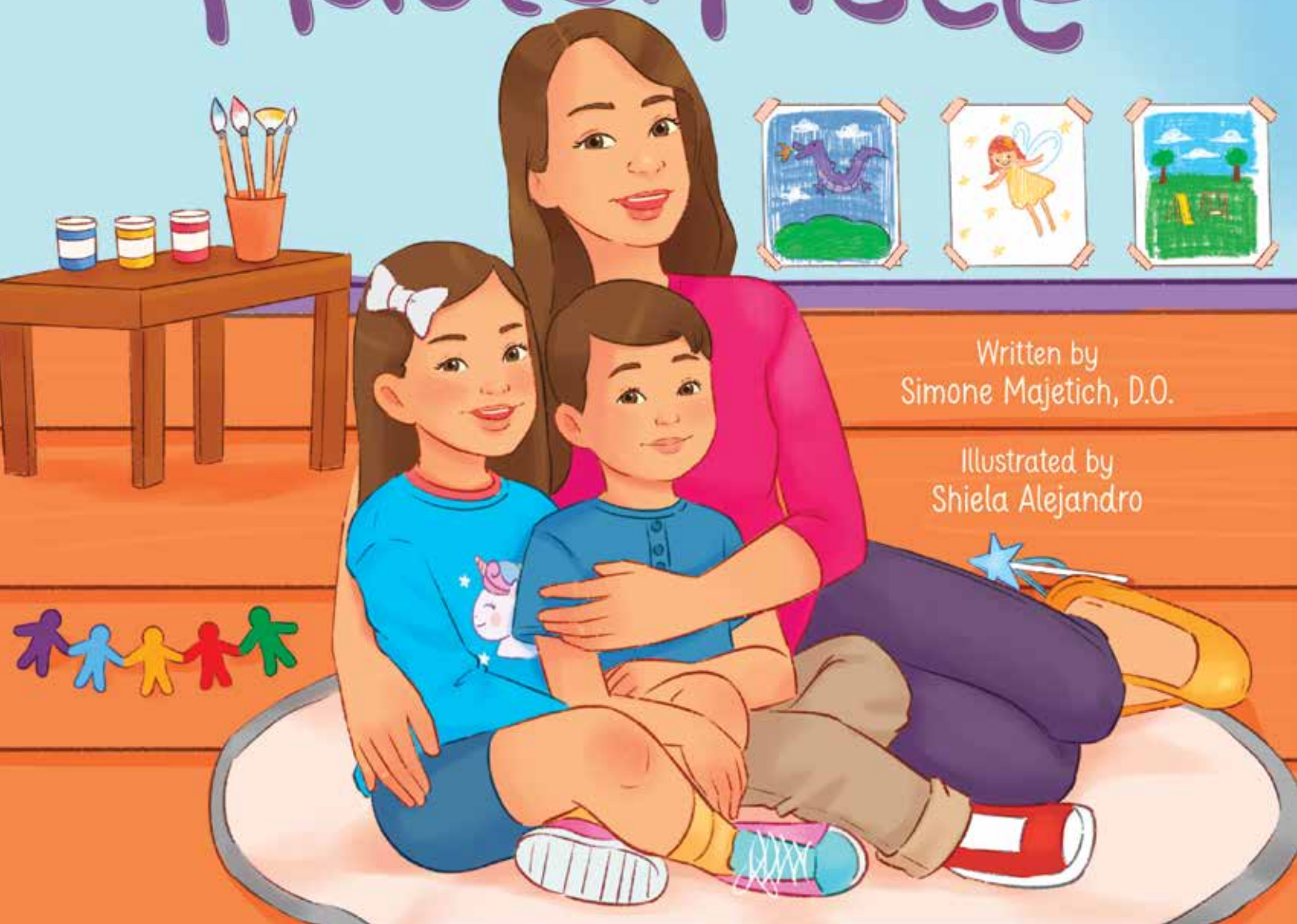


My Greatest Masterpiece



Written by
Simone Majetich, D.O.

Illustrated by
Shiela Alejandro

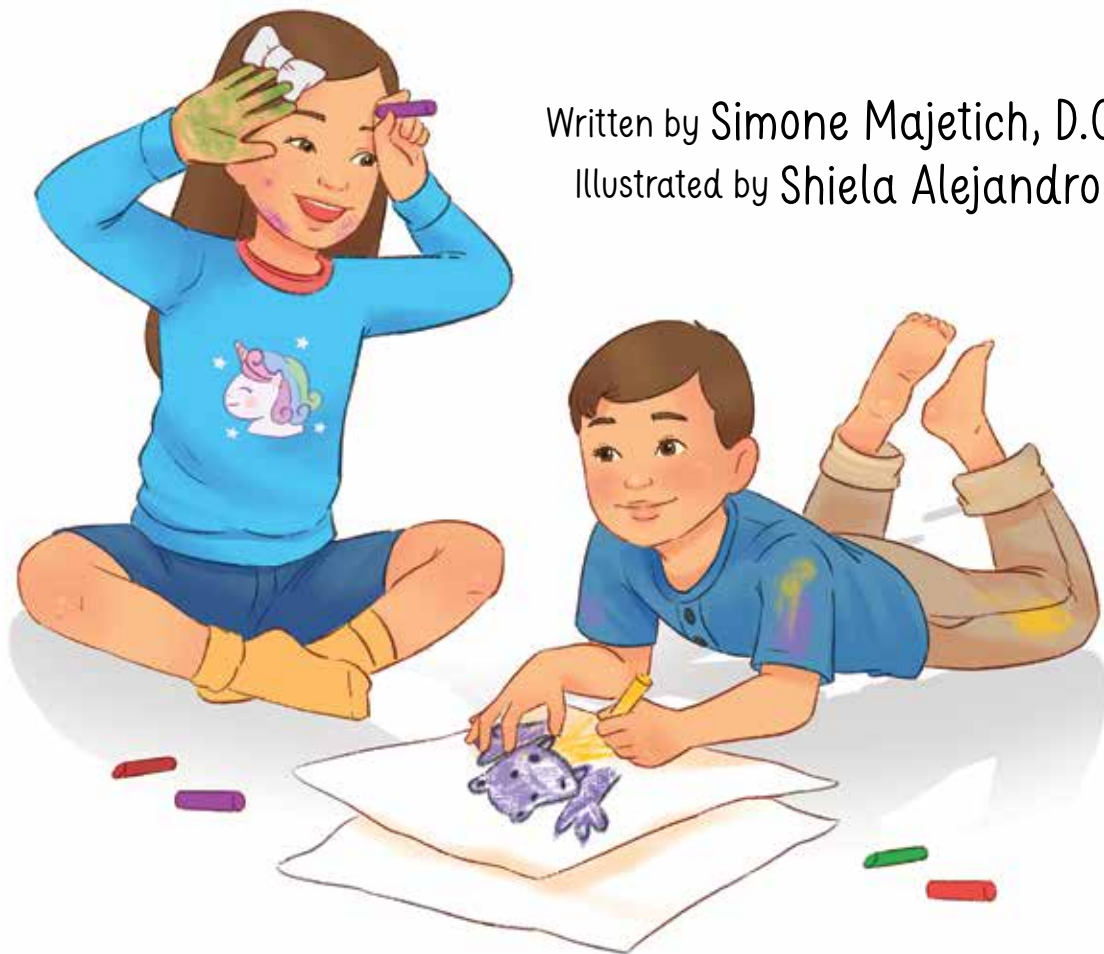
MY GREATEST MASTERPIECE



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A special thank you to Shiela Alejandro for her beautiful illustrations, Jecoe Firmalan for illustrating the end pages, Praise Saflor for formatting the book, and Bobbie Hinman for her editing services.

My Greatest Masterpiece
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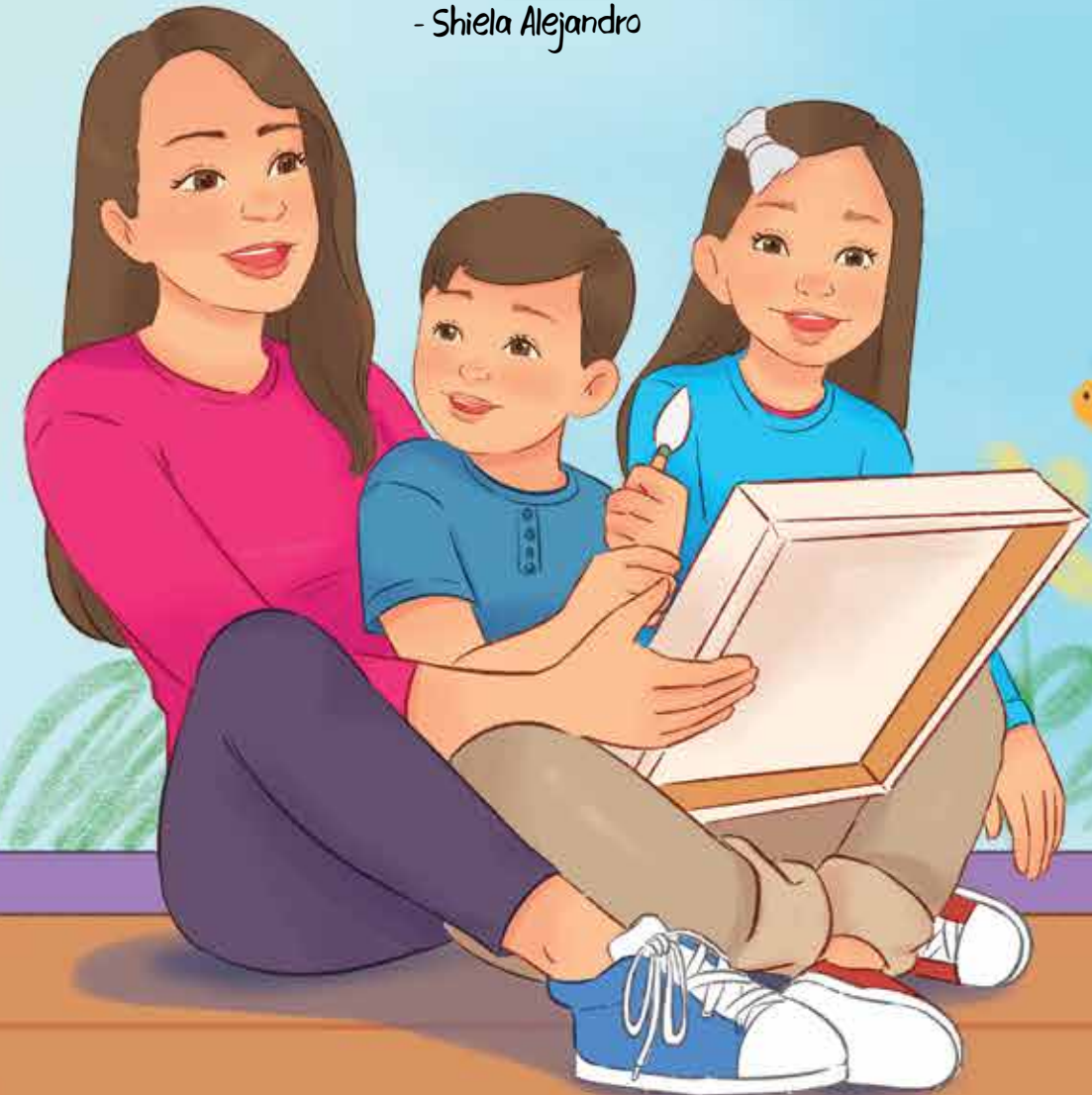
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For Emma, Harrison and Oliver.
Our house will always be a mess, but the memories of you joyfully creating things is worth it all.

- Simone Majetich

To Allen, our 7 cats and 3 dogs,
you guys are the reason I wake up each day.

- Shiela Alejandro



I watch you dream of magic and wonder.
I may look like I'm focused on what I am doing...
but really, I like to sneak a peek when I can.



Sometimes you see me looking over your shoulder
and you smile while you cover up your work.
The best is when I can watch you up close
as you paint with your little hands.





You paint so **beautifully**,

swirling your brushes in circles

and spirals as they dance across the paper.

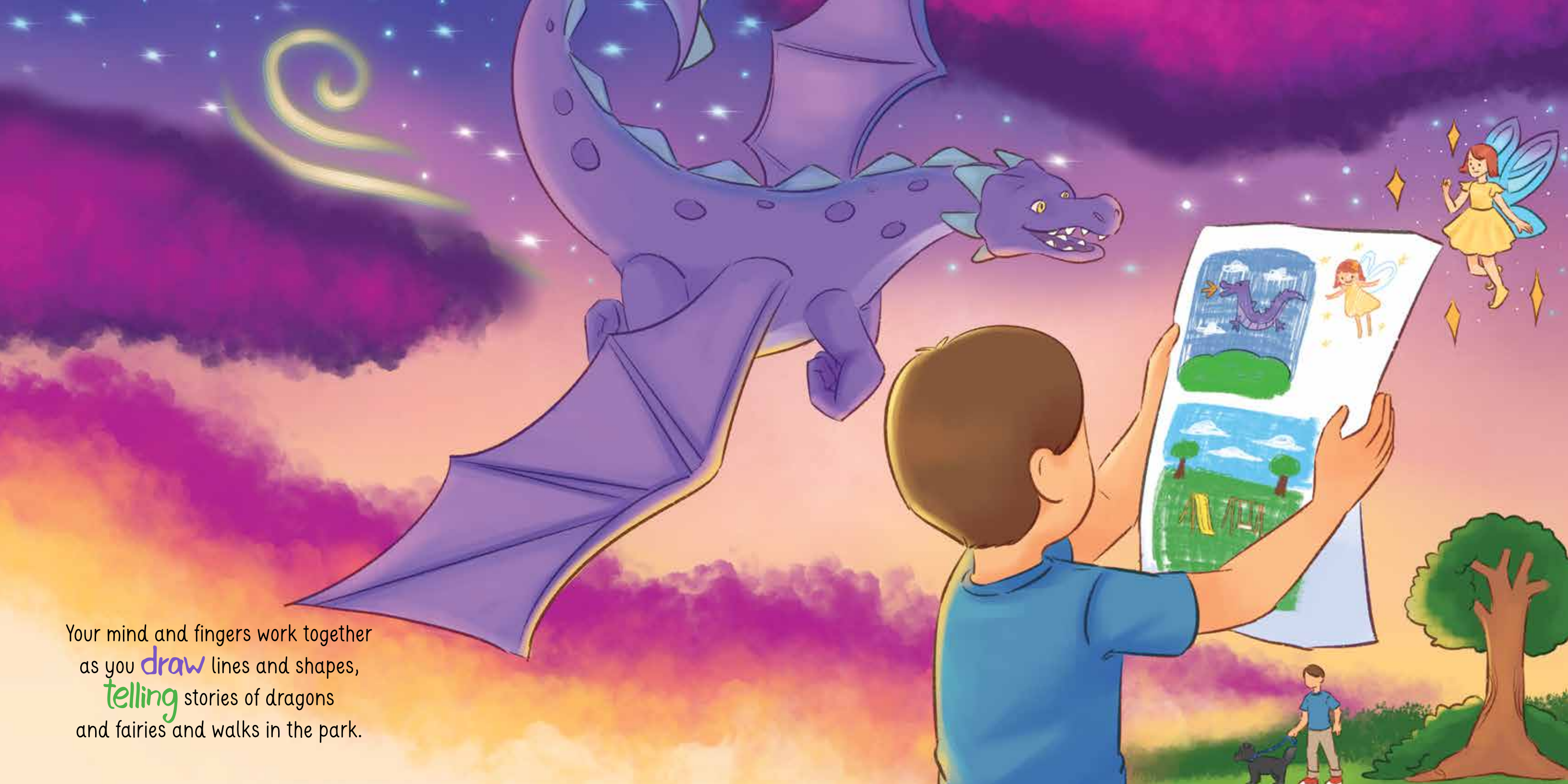
Brushes lift for a moment,
then return with new **colors**.

Your hair sparkles with **glitter**,
reflecting colorful stars around the room.
You have **paint** on your nose...
and strands of ribbon scattered near your toes.





Your clothes are covered with **chalk dust**,
leaving a trail of **colors** on the floor.



Your mind and fingers work together
as you **draw** lines and shapes,
telling stories of dragons
and fairies and walks in the park.



You **build** fortresses with your pencils
and **cut papers** to make trees.
The room becomes a **magical land**,
and **YOU** are the wizard who makes dreams come true.

You softly **sing a song** to create a rhythm for your working hands.
You are gentle and so focused as your beautiful creations begin to come alive.
You parade around in your apron and use cardboard to make a sword...or a wand.



You are certain
the room is a castle...
and claim that
DREAMS DO COME TRUE!



The walls are covered with your **paintings**,
creating windows to places far away.

You secretly gather under the table
and plan your **next adventure**.

You turn in your chair and see me being still as a statue behind
you. I scoop you up and whisper softly that I have a secret.



I tell you that you are the most beautiful thing I have ever seen.
No matter how much you create, this is the **BEST!** The rest was just a dream.



The glow of the room is magical.
Sitting on the floor, I hold you in my lap.
I hold a piece of paper in my hands.
It is small, but well loved.

The paper is a photo that has
no decorations or bright colors.

It is only black and white
with a little tiny border.

In the photo, we see
two children standing
close together...
with me.
They are smiling...happy.



You hear my loving voice say something
important and true...

“You mean the world to me!
My **GREATEST** masterpiece is **YOU!**”



Here are some fun crafts you can do together.

Homemade Edible Paint

Corn starch paint is a great option for little kids and can work as brightly colored finger paints too! All the mess with less worry. It has a lovely texture and is non-toxic.

Supply List:

- 2 cups of corn starch
- 1 cup of cold water
- 2-3 cups of boiling water (approximately).
Add 1 cup at a time until the consistency is similar to acrylic paint
- 1 tablespoon of glycerine (optional but highly recommended)
- Liquid food coloring
- Bowl and Spatula

Directions:

Combine 1 cup of cold water with 2 cups of corn starch in a pot on the stove and gently heat while stirring together. Next you will slowly pour in up to 2 cups of boiling water while stirring continuously. Your desired consistency is similar to that of acrylic paint. Add 1 tbsp of glycerin to prevent clumping. Turn the heat to very low heat while continuing to stir. The corn starch can over cook and become clumpy. Once your paint is thicker and creamy in consistency, separate them into containers and add drops of food coloring to create your various colors. Corn starch paint should be white before adding your color.

Other Information:

This paint can be stored in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 2 weeks. If you leave it out at room temperature or greater, it will spoil after a few days. Food coloring can stain clothing and furniture. Do not consume raw cornstarch. In large quantities, cooked cornstarch can increase blood sugar levels.



Marbled Paper

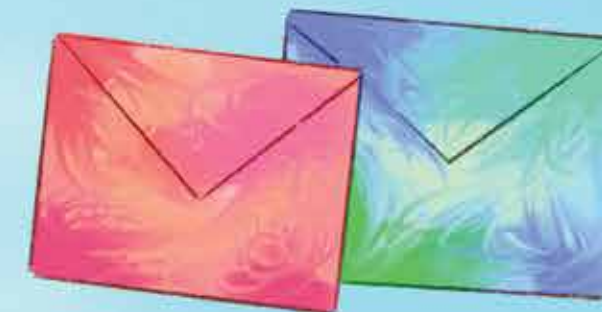
Create fun marbled patterns on paper using shaving cream at home. Use these decorated pages to make crafts and cards for loved ones.

Supply List:

- Can of shaving cream
- Liquid food coloring
- Spatula or knife to spread the shaving cream
- Wood Skewer
- White cardstock paper
- Ruler
- Large baking pan that will fit your paper
- Gloves (optional)
- Paper towels

Other Information:

Do not over stir your food coloring in the shaving cream. This will diminish the marbled effect. You can use heavy books to flatten your dry paper if it curls with drying. Food coloring can stain clothing and furniture.



Directions:

Spray enough shaving cream to cover the bottom of your baking dish. Use a spatula or knife to spread the shaving cream around evenly, creating a smooth surface. Squeeze scattered drops of liquid food coloring onto the surface of the shaving cream. Use the skewer to make swirling patterns in the shaving cream – creating a marbled design. Place a piece of cardstock onto the shaving cream and press down. Gently lift up the paper and place on a paper towel – shaving cream side up. Start on one side and scrape the shaving cream off the paper using your ruler. Discard the shaving cream and let the paper dry.



Salted Dough Ornaments

Capture your little one's foot print or hand print in an ornament or make fun shapes together. These make wonderful gifts for family members. With my kids I enjoyed making their foot prints - painted in a fun color and labeled "Name's Mistletoes" with the date added.

Supply List:

Baking tray	Apron	1/2 cup of water
Parchment paper	Butter knife	Acrylic paint and paint brushes
Rolling pin	Straw (optional)	Clear varnish / sealer (can use Mod Podge)
Pin	1/2 cup table salt	String or ribbon
	1 cup all-purpose flour	Permanent Markers

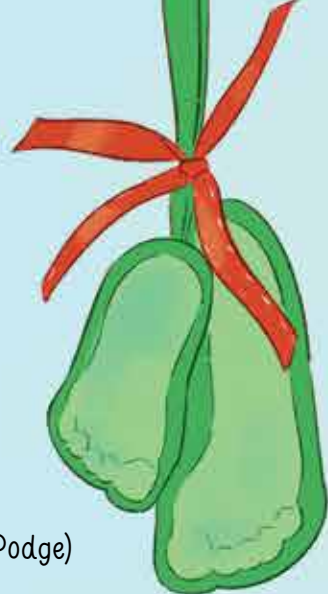
Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Mix the salt and flour together. Then add the water and knead the dough until uniform and smooth. Sprinkle flour onto a surface and roll the dough out with your rolling pin, making it about 1/3 inch thick. Press your child's hand or foot into the dough, leaving an impression. Cut the imprint out with a butter knife, leaving a border around the print. Use the knife to make a hole in the dough for where your string will hang the ornament or use a straw to do the same.

Place the ornament on parchment paper on the baking tray and heat in the oven at 350 degrees for at least 3 hours or until completely dried. Your piece may require a few more hours in the oven depending on your oven and the thickness of your ornament. Once dry you can paint your ornament, seal it, mark it and add your string.

Other Information:

If the dough is not sticking together, you can add another tablespoon of water and continue to knead. For making a hole in your dough for the string using a knife, be sure it is large enough. I recommend making it at least 1/4 inch in width and 1/8 inch in height.



Rock Dot Painting

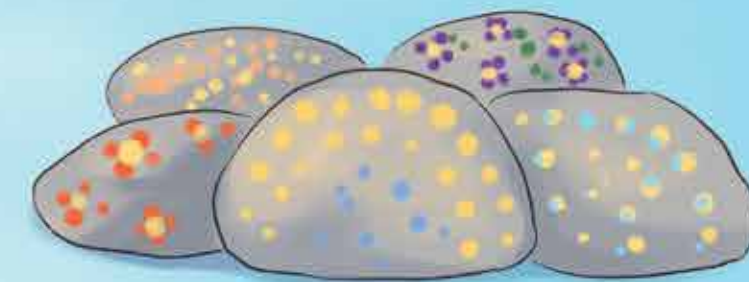
Painting rocks is so much fun! And decorating them with tons of colors and dots and designs is great. You can use rocks of reasonable size that you find in your back yard, or can purchase rounded rocks online or at a craft store. Painting the dots can also be mesmerizing / have a calming effect.

Supply List:

Rocks (Preferably with a smooth finish.
Clean the surface prior to painting)
Acrylic paint
Pack of pencils with rubber ends
Pencil Sharpener
Cotton Swabs (optional if you do not have access to pencils with rubber ends)
A paint palette or paper plate
A damp paper towel
Clear acrylic spray for sealing

Other Information:

Test your dots by practicing on a piece of paper first. This allows you to get a feel for the painting technique and the size of your eraser head. You can create spirals and alternating patterns with your dots. You can make flowers and even do a smaller dot on top of a dried larger dot.



Directions:

Start by sharpening the eraser side of your pencils to different sizes. The more you sharpen, the smaller the impression left by the eraser when painting with it. You can create as many sized dots as per the number of pencils you have (If you do not have pencils with rubber ends, you can use a cotton swab to create dots of equal size). Pour various colors of paints on a paper plate or into a palette, being sure to keep the colors separate from one another. Dip your eraser head into the paint color of your choice and "dot" the paint onto your rock. Wipe off the paint between colors with a damp towel. Allow to dry before sealing with your clear acrylic spray.





Paint with Bubbles (or Water Guns or Spray Bottles)

Get ready to get wet! These amusing techniques create interesting paintings and invite your kids outdoors for some crafting fun.

Supply List:

Clothes that you do not mind getting dirty/stained
 Clear dishwashing detergent
 Light corn syrup
 Liquid food coloring
 Plastic straws
 Plastic cups
 Measuring cup
 Large mixing bowl
 6 cups hot water
 Cardstock paper
 Painters tape (optional)
 Water gun or spray bottle (optional)

Directions:

In a large bowl add 6 cups of hot water and 2 cups of clear dishwashing detergent. Stir well. Add 3/4 cup of corn syrup to the mixture and stir. Separate this bubble mixture into several smaller plastic cups. Add 3-5 drops of food coloring to each cup to create different colors for painting. Stir well with plastic straws.

For painting with bubbles: SUPERVISE the bubble painting activity and make sure that children DO NOT drink the bubble solution! Dip the plastic straw into the colored bubble solution and then blow a bubble onto the cardstock paper by pressing your lips on the clean side of the straw (opposite to the bubble mixture) and gently blowing.

For painting with water guns or spray bottles: fill the water guns or spray bottles with the colored bubble solution. Spray onto your cardstock paper. You will need multiple guns or spray bottles to do multiple colors.

Other Information:

Food coloring can stain clothing and furniture. For brighter colors, add more drops of liquid food coloring. If you do not want to make your own bubbles, you can add drops of food coloring to store bought bubble solution. You can create fun paintings by using painters tape to protect areas of the paper from the bubble paint. I.e. taping your name and blowing bubbles around this. Then remove the tape to reveal your name in the color of your paper. Be sure to press the tape down firmly so that the bubble solution does not get under there.



Treasure Hunt

Follow the clues to find your treasure!
 Always a favorite in our house.

Supply List:

Plastic Easter Egg Shells
 Cut up pieces of paper
 Pen/Pencils
 Something to be the treasure / reward

Directions:

Cut your paper into squares that are approximately 2 inches by 2 inches in size. On each piece you will draw a picture of an item or location nearby. This will be a "clue" to where the next egg is located. Draw as many clues as you like and per the number of egg shells that you have.

For set up: Place one clue in an egg shell. Do the same for every clue that you made. Be careful to note where each clue points to so that you know where to place your next clue. Place each clue in their respective locations and for the final location place your treasure/reward. Give the starting clue to your treasure hunter and let the game begin!




About the Author

Dr. Simone is a mom to three lovely children, a physician, an oil finger painting artist and a children's book author. She loves to paint the beauty that she sees in the world around her, using bright colors and textures in her pieces.

Through illustrated children's books she hopes to bring to life the beauty that is also within each of us.

You can view more of her work and free downloads at:
SimoneMajetichFineArt.com

Follow her on social media:

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About the Illustrator


Shiela Alejando is a passionate and experienced children's book artist and illustrator. She combines her vivid imagination with her efficiency to deliver what the author envisions the book would be. She currently lives in the Philippines with her partner, 7 cats and 3 dogs.

You can send her any inquiries or consultation for free.
Email her at: shiela@bucketsofwhimsies.com



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Your voice truly matters. So, if you enjoyed this book, it would mean the world to me if you would take a moment to leave a heartfelt review on Amazon.

Your kind feedback is very appreciated and important. Thank you so much for your time.

-Simone Majetich

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Megan
Luke
Sienna
Lilly Mae
Carter
Logan
Zachary
Atlas
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Skylar
Onyx
Rocky

Joseph
Carson
Lucas

Allison
Matilda
Wyatt
William
Chanel
Penelope
Mae

Page illustrated by Jacoe Firmidan

MY GREATEST
MASTERPIECE

A colorful illustration of a child's playroom. A purple tent is set up on a wooden floor. Inside the tent, a panda wearing a blue bow tie sits on a pink and white striped pillow. A colorful parrot is perched on a wooden stick. Outside the tent, a grey shark toy lies on the floor. A wooden treasure chest is open, and a red star-shaped object with a white stick and red ribbon is nearby. A black pirate hat with a white skull and crossbones is on the floor. The background is a light blue wall with orange stars hanging from a string.

Mommy secretly watches as her two children create magical and inspiring crafts. Their creativity and imagination bring dreams to life! Mommy has a special secret to share with these two messy artists—a masterpiece that is the best of all!

This book includes 6 craft projects that you can explore with your own little ones.