

# Skin-Tone Portraits

**Objective:** Children will increase self-awareness through studying own skin-tone and features, creating a self-portrait and having discussions throughout the whole experience

**Materials:** paints of various skin-tones, paper, various hair-colored yarns, fabric scraps, hand mirrors, paint brushes, paint dishes

## **Procedure:**

- In a circle group, determine each child's skin tone by rubbing paint on the back of the hand, one child at a time; do this in open conversation with the on looking group of children. Don't be afraid to mix the colors! Rarely are any of us an exact match.
- Back at art areas, have the children use hand mirrors together to create self-portraits on the paper. (You can mix a small amount of each child's skin-tone paint in a paint dish.) They can be full-body sized traced outlines on roll paper, or small paintings on smaller paper. Have them use yarn for hair and fabric scraps for clothing.
- Invite the children to use the hand mirrors in studying the shapes of facial features before drawing/painting them—document some of what they say and post near the portraits
- Alternatively, have the children just do handprints of their colors together for a display or quilt.
- Display prominently

## **Discussion:**

- Surely the concept of "black/white" skin will come up. Discuss the colors black and white in comparison to real skin colors.
- Have children compare each others' skin-tones; welcome the discussion