

# SECRET Message

by Barbara Sher

Watching something appear from nothing feeds a child's delight in magic. In this game one person writes a letter or draws a shape on a piece of paper or index card with a white candle. The shape or message made of wax can't be seen well until it's painted. The magic part happens as your child paints over the paper and a shape or letter suddenly appears!

## Materials

*Heavy white paper, such as index cards  
Candle or white crayon  
Paints and brushes or paint bottles with sponge tops*

## Set up

Using the candle, draw persons name, message, simple shape or pictures on the white index cards.

## Variations

Variations on this game would be to do a card for each letter of the child's name and then encourage him to put them in the right order to spell his name.

If you have a small group (or family activity) have every one write secret messages and give them to each other.

## What is being Learned

Children learn to do an action and anticipate a result. When they paint on the card, something will appear.

If the variation is used in which the children give other cards, they practice a social give-and-take.



## Modifications

For children who need more input on drawing the shapes themselves with candles, use colored crayons so they can see what they have drawn. The paint, put on by another player, will make the shape stand out more.

For children who do not have the fine motor control to use a paintbrush, use bottled paint that has a sponge applicator that will cover large areas more easily.

For children who do have good fine motor control, know how to read words and need an extra challenge with a reward, have them cut out letters one by one with a scissor and then put them together to spell a word. The word could be a clue to where a treat is hidden!

Whether it's the easy or harder way, playing the secret message game can be fun for everyone. ♥

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