Color mixing is always a magical treat for students in the artroom, especially young students. I never tire of hearing their excited squeals of delight as new colors are made. I like to give my kindergartners and first graders color mixing experiences they will remember and build upon.

Kindergarten Color Mixing
In kindergarten we study sun images created from many different media, including clay, fabric, beads, metal, and paper. Students notice that not all the sun images are the same, and that they differ in regard to media, pattern, and design. They reflect on why the sun is so important to everything on earth and recognize that the colors of the sun—red, yellow, and orange—are warm colors.

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First Grade Color Mixing
In first grade, we revisit the idea of warm colors and the sun using different media, but we still focus on color mixing. We review why the sun is important and note similarities and differences among sun images. Students are given red, yellow, and white paint and practice mixing as many different warm colors as they can when painting their own sun images.

The following week when the paintings are dry, students review how they made each color. Oil pastels are used to add details, patterns, and backgrounds. Finished paintings radiate from the bulletin boards and bring warm smiles to students and staff. The proof of the success of these lessons is that students come back every year remembering this experience and remind me of how we made orange.

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