My animals blots

I like to do crafts with my students when I teach Spanish. It is a great moment for kids to be creative and to express themselves. We can have them not only review vocabulary but tell stories about what they are creating.
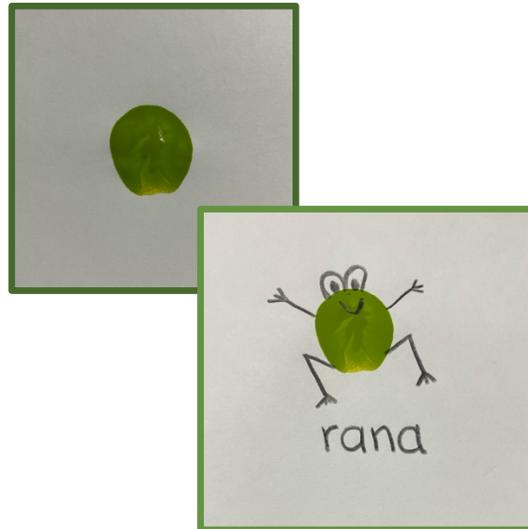
A fun craft that I like to do is to create animals from a simple blot of paint or from fingerprints. Materials are easy to get. We usually have them at home. We just need paper or card stock, washable tempera paint or fingerpaint (we can easily get these at the store), crayons or colored pencils and a paintbrush.

Tell your kids that they are going to paint an animal from a blot of paint. We can use a paintbrush to make it on the paper. My 5-year-old son did them by getting his fingers wet with paint and them pressing them on the paper. Now comes the fun part! Once the paint has dried, they can use colors or crayons to draw curves and lines to make the parts of the animal like the eyes, nose, mouth, legs, tail, etc. Let their imagination fly!

Once they are finished drawing their animals, they can write the name of the animal in Spanish. Here are some animals that they can create.

Animals
una abeja (bee)
una araña (spider)
un conejo (rabbit)
un elefante (elephant)
un gato (cat)
una mariposa (butterfly)
un mono (monkey)
un pato (duck)
un perro (dog)
un ratón (mouse)
una rana (frog)
un tigre (tiger)
un tortuga (turtle)

You can practice Spanish with them by pointing to an animal and asking simple questions like:

¿Qué animal es?   (Which animal is it?)
¿Es un perro?   (Is it a dog?)

¿Cómo se llama?   (What is its name?)
¿De qué color es?   (What color is it?)
¿Dónde vive?   (Where does it live?)

Your students will probably name their animals like my 5-year-old did. He named the frog René. Encourage your students to describe their animals and tell stories about them. Just have fun with it!