

Creative Art Activities for Learning and Growing

Celebrating Connections 2018
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Creative art is a process, not a product!

Open-ended, creative art allows children to make choices, learn through discovery and exploration, and encourages development of initiative.

Crayons are usually children's first art medium.
Remember your childhood experience of opening a new box of crayons, seeing the beautiful colors and smelling the crayons?

Art activities provide opportunities for development of eye-hand coordination and both small and large muscle development.

Art activities provide opportunities for practicing problem solving skills and cause and effect experimentation.

Social and emotional development is enhanced when children experience success through *"no-fail" creative art activities*.

Group art activities encourage a sense of community in the classroom.

Prepare an area in the classroom that is near a water source and where both children and teachers can enjoy the learning process provided by creative art activities.

CRAYON FUN

Crayons come in various sizes and shapes that allow children of all ages to enjoy working with them. Our youngest children begin their art adventures with "Scribbling." "Crayon Bundles" provide a different coloring experience for all ages. There are several helpful tips that lead to success with "Crayon Rubbings." Both the object placed on the table to provide the design and the paper used should be secured with masking tape. What hidden object can be used to provide

beautiful square patterns? Crayons of more than one color allow for choices, experimentation, and creativity. Crayons used for rubbings have the paper removed and only the long side is used to provide color. “Crayon Tracings” allow additional opportunities for working with various shapes.

CREATIVITY WITH PAINTING

“Easel Painting” should be available every day. *Non-toxic liquid paint is used, cover-ups provide protection for clothing, and a few drops of liquid soap in the paint makes clean-up much easier.* Beginning painters start with a wide brush and one color of paint. Two colors are introduced after children have mastered holding the brush and wiping it on the side of the paint container after dipping the brush into the paint. Children’s names are printed in the upper left corner of the easel paper because we read the English language from left to right, starting in the left corner of the page. The first letter of each name is a capital letter and all others are lower case. The teacher says each letter as it is being printed. Valuable language and literacy skills are easily combined with art.

Creative art activities provide opportunities for learning shapes, colors, number concepts, and can include nature and science as well.

Painting Activities that may be enjoyed include:

Finger painting prints,

Circles of various sizes made with plastic lids, and

Prints of nature items such as marigolds.

Colored water drop painting allows for exploration and discovery of color changes.

Construction Paper activities include “collages” made with construction paper. A great benefit of this activity provided at the art table is that it allows an opportunity for conversation between the teacher and children.

Older children enjoy making paper beads and creating necklaces.

Both health and safety of the children are always considered.

Glitter can easily get in eyes and cause serious problems and is to be avoided. Other items that should NOT be used for art activities include balloons, cardboard tubes from toilet paper and Styrofoam trays that have held meat or poultry.

Coloring books, patterns, cut-outs and teacher-made models are not appropriate.

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGING, LEARNING AND GROWING THROUGH CREATIVE, OPEN-ENDED ART ACTIVITIES.