

Art & Craft Guide - Unit 1: All About Me

Overview:

- **Art** options are focused on the skill of creative expression - more open ended, less directed, and offer a variety of tools and materials for children to choose from and create freely.
- **Craft** options are a little more structured and incorporate the goal of exercising **fine motor skills** that involve cutting, gluing, tearing, ripping, building, etc. These are also more project oriented and teacher guided. These options can be used in your Fine Motor center and you will notice occurrences in this unit's curriculum that specify *"Choose a Craft from the Art & Craft Guide."*
- **Unless otherwise noted, all activities are OK for toddlers through SA, with the understanding that adults must provide appropriate supervision and age-appropriate materials.**

Safety:

In all classrooms (all ages and all states), teachers are responsible for (1) providing active supervision, (2) knowing children's abilities well, and (3) using good judgment about which materials each child can safely use. Even when an activity is considered "OK for all ages" adults must keep safety in mind. Please give specific attention to the following:

- **Shaving cream is no longer permitted in any of our centers. Be creative in providing equally messy opportunities to play. Let us know if you have any suggestions in addition to our approved substitute list!**
- **Glitter** is not permitted in infant rooms due to concerns about children's eyes and is not recommended in toddler rooms for the same reason. To substitute, some teachers dye sugar with food coloring for the same effect (which sparkles and is safer for children).
- **Chokables (any item small enough to fit in the choke tube, including wiggle eyes)** are not permitted in infant and toddler rooms and should be monitored in all classrooms. In PA, licensing reps even expressed concern about tissue paper in toddler rooms. Tissue paper can be used in full sheets and large pieces, but small pieces should be discarded.
- **Be aware of allergies** for arts & crafts, as well as at mealtime. Please double check allergy cards when preparing materials for arts & crafts (flour, cinnamon, etc.).

Reminders:

- **A fun, interactive art or craft is required daily, but does not necessarily have to be thematic.**
- This guide is designed to give you more flexibility to customize each daily art activity based on children's interests. Any of the options can be used at any time. Repeat activities or omit others at your discretion as you reflect on each children's interests and abilities.
- Photos are provided in this guide to help (adult) visual learners, but are not intended to be patterns to follow. Even in crafts, please always value process over product.
- As you plan, please write each choice on your daily lesson plan. When your art choice is more product-oriented (a skill builder, rather than an open-ended art experience), please be sure that (1) the easel is also open and open-ended and (2) the art cart/art center includes a variety of 'extra' materials to encourage creativity.
- Smocks are required for the majority of the options. Use your best judgment. We hold the utmost respect for the children we take care of and our philosophy does not support removal of children's clothing for art/craft activities.
- Repetition is necessary to gain mastery of a task. Therefore, art and craft experiences are intended to be repeated. If experiences are truly student-centered, the product will always be different.
- Please feel free to send your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions to toni.lamantia@doodlebugs.com or Jennifer.horner@doodlebugs.com and/or complete a Program Input Form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/bravoinput

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ART & CRAFT - Photo Frames

- Encourage creativity as children can decorate frames with paint and age- appropriate decorative materials (toddlers– no sequins or chokable items).
- Pre-make frames for toddlers, but invite older children to make their own.
- Consider taking photos of the children to add them to their frames.



ART - Funny Faces

- Provide a variety of facial features cut from magazines or photos (precut for toddlers)
- Encourage creativity as children combine features to create funny faces, gluing their creations on paper plates or construction paper.
- Mat or frame with construction paper in a contrasting color.



ART & CRAFT—That's My Name (Ages 3+)

Find creative ways to make name building and recognition fun. Children can paint rocks and add their name letters to them. They can decorate them with art materials on a strip, or they can make a new use for cheerios and glue them to the letters of their name. You can let them choose from a variety of options.



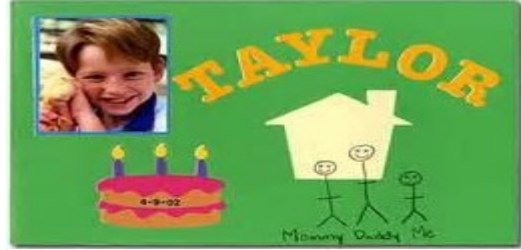
ART & CRAFT—Body Tracing

- Gather a large amount of white bulletin board paper for each child in your class.
- Have the teacher trace around the child's body. Pre-k children may trace each other if they wish.
- Provide markers, paint, or crayons and invite them to decorate themselves.
- Pre-k children can use scissors to cut it out when it dries.



ART & CRAFT - All About Me Placemats

- Each child is given a large piece of white construction paper and paint. They can make handprints all over the paper or use stickers, markers, or crayons to decorate it with things that they like.
- Place a picture of that child in the middle of the paper and invite them to write their names at the bottom (Toddler teacher will write names for their children).
- Use contact paper to cover the paper and invite children to use for meal time.



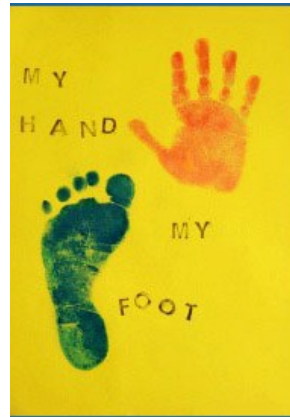
CRAFT - Personality Quilt

- Each child in your class gets a piece of paper. Invite children to look thru magazines and cut and glue out things that they like or that represent who they are.
- They can also draw or put anything on their quilt that represents them. Then put each child's paper together to make a quilt. Hang up for all to see.
- Toddler teachers you can engage in conversation with your children on things that they like and write them down on their paper, then invite them to paint freely.



ART & CRAFT - Handprints & Footprints

- This is the perfect time to have children add a clear handprint and footprint to their assessment portfolios. Add the date so you can compare at the end of the year.
- Extend by providing a long length of bulletin board paper and lots of paint for additional handprint and footprint creativity!



ART & CRAFT—Name Dots (ages 3+)

- Adults write children's name on a sheet of paper.
- Children use bingo dabbers to stamp over each letter.
- This is a great addition to alphabet art books.



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ART - Round Robin Collaborative Art (Ages 3+)

- Paper for each student, crayons, hard flat surface to draw on that will fit in their lap while sitting at the circle.
- Give each child a piece of paper. Have them begin to draw anything they'd like. Give them 1 minute (adjust if you'd like) to draw. Then say, 'STOP!' This signals students to hold their hands in the air, then pass their paper to the right (or you could have the papers stay in the same spot and children could rotate). Students will start the process over again, having one minute to add to the new piece they've received. Keep rotating until each child has gotten to draw on every paper.
- Display all of the work and talk about the experience.



ART- Friendship Wreath

Cut a circle out of poster board or bulletin board paper. Have each child in your class dip their hand in paint and stamp it on the wreath!

Hang your wreath in the classroom for all to enjoy.

- Once children have added their handprint to the wreath, be sure to include opportunities for continued open art experiences.



Art/ Craft- The More We Get Together

Provide students with paper and open art materials to create a self portrait. Hang up all of your students self portraits side-by-side to create a friendship chain!



ART- Friendship Quilt

Provide students with paper and open art materials.

Encourage little ones to create a piece of the "quilt" that represents them. Display the pieces of their quilt together. This could also turn into a fun guessing game. Students can try to figure out who created each piece of the quilt.



ART- Friendship Painting

You will need:

- paper
- A ball
- A cookie sheet

Place a piece of paper on the cookie sheet. Ask students to help apply paint to the paper. Have two children stand and hold each side of the cookie sheet. Children can work together to roll the ball back and forth.



ART- Friendship Color Mixing

Provide primary colors of paint for children to explore mixing and painting with. Children can dip their hands in paint, and mix colors by touching hands with one of their friends. Then, they can stamp their hands on the paper!



CRAFT-Friendship Bracelets

Cut a paper towel roll horizontally to create cuffs for children to decorate and turn into friendship bracelets!



Art- Cooperative Quilt

Utilize a large sheet of poster board or bulletin board paper. Apply tape to the paper in a criss-cross pattern until it covers the entire sheet.

Children can work together to color in the squares between the tape.



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ART– Emotions Self Portraits

Provide children with a mirror, some crayons, paper, and emotion pictures. *provided by the education team
Ask children to look at the emotion picture and try to imitate that emotion with their face. They can then look in the mirror and try to draw their face.



ART– Painting to Music

Turn on some music and paint! Encourage children to paint to the music and describe how they feel. Record their response and display with their art!



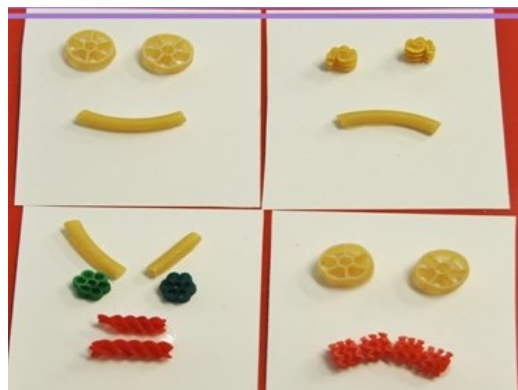
ART– Today I Am...

Print out black and white pictures of children. Provide them the opportunity to choose which color paint they would like to paint with. “What color are you today?” Then, encourage little ones to paint their black and white picture the color that they chose.



CRAFT– Pasta Faces (Ages 3+)

Provide preschool students with different pieces of pasta. Have fun with students and create faces with pasta.



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ART– Cardboard Comb Painting

You will need:

- a small rectangle of cardboard
- Paper
- Paint

Cut four rectangles into the bottom of your piece of cardboard. Show children how to drag the cardboard across the paper to create fun marks!

**ART– Glue Resist Art**

You will need:

- water color
- White glue

All children to squeeze glue all over their paper! Invite time for the glue to dry completely. Using water colors, paint over top of the glue to make a design.

**ART– Texture Exploration**

You will need:

- cardboard
- glue
- textures :buttons, feathers, pompoms, tissue paper

(Toddlers– please no chokables.)

Encourage children to explore the textures of the materials provided and glue them to sheets of paper!

**ART– Crayon Resist Sandpaper**

Please utilize arms reach supervision while doing this activity.

Encourage children to draw outline shapes on the sandpaper with a crayon. Children can then paint on and around their crayon markings with a bing dabber, and then lastly paint over with watercolor.



ART- Wash Painting

Submerge pieces of white or light colored paper in water and place in baking pans or sensory bins. Provide paint in small paper cups or in blobs on paper plates along with brushes. Invite her to dab the paper with the paint, watching as it moves and blends with the water. Older kids can experiment with creating abstract forms and learning about the artist who used this technique (see link below) while younger tots can explore color theory — and simply making a colorful mess.



ART - Upside Down Art

- Secure bulletin board paper or large sheets of paper to the underside of a table. Join children in drawing with crayons and painting with brushes.



ART - Pipe Cleaner Painting

- Provide campers with pipe cleaners to bend and shape as they'd like.
- Encourage them to stamp, brush, and drag goops of color around the paper.



ART - Vehicle Painting

- Cover a table with bulletin board paper and place a large cardboard box onto the table along with paint on paper plates and vehicles. Ahead of time, cut and mark the box to create tunnels and roads *see photo, noting that PS/PK/SA friends can definitely create these neighborhood road themselves!
- Children will drive the vehicles along the roads and through the tunnels, making a trail as they go.



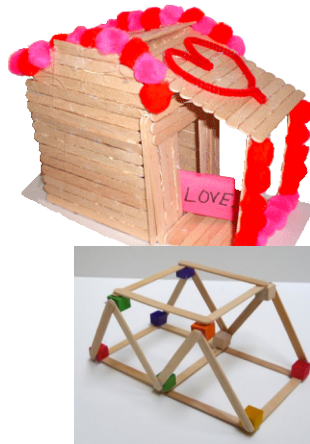
CRAFT - Nature Mobiles (Ages 3+)

- Collect outdoor items such as sticks and leaves to begin mobiles.
- Provide children with a full stocked art cart of tissue paper, construction paper, yarn, pipe cleaners, felt, craft foam, beads, etc.
- Give them ample time to create. No two mobiles should look alike!



ART - Building/Engineering Art

- Provide craft sticks, play dough/clay, tissue paper, foil, plastic wrap, glue, assorted art cart materials, paint.
- Building is an wonderful way to discover concepts in science as students learn how materials can hold together, stack, etc.
- Provide materials and encourage children to build anything they'd like. Take photos of their process!



ART- Cotton Ball Art (Ages 3+)

Tape a piece of contact paper, sticky side up, to the top of a table.

Provide students with colored cotton balls to pull apart and stick to the contact paper.



ART & CRAFT - 3D Foam Sculpture

Provide children with pieces of craft foam cut into long strips. Cut slits into the craft foam pieces. Children can connect the craft foam pieces by pushing each piece into the slits to create a 3D sculpture.



ART - Puffy Paints

- Provide food coloring, 1 part flour, 1 part salt, 1 part water, squeeze bottles (old ketchup bottles), paper.
- Mix together a few drops of food coloring, flour, salt and water and pour into squeeze bottles. Use bottles to paint designs and let dry for a puffy, textured piece of art.

Extensions for SA:

- What else can you mix to make puffy paint?
- Does puffy paint stick to any surface?
- What happens to puffy paint over time?
- How long does puffy paint take to dry?
- Does the texture change and does it hold its puffy consistency?



ART - Wax Paper Painting'

- Provide wax paper, white paper, paint.
- Sandwich drops of paint between two sheets of wax paper. Press and squish to swirl the colors.
- Remove top layer of wax paper and place a sheet of white paper on top of the paint to make a print of the design.



ART - Comb Painting

- Provide paint squeeze bottles and combs for 2-3 children to paint at a time. Cover a table in bulletin board paper, then provide each child a large plastic lid and piece of paper.
- See the link below for the entire process and lots of ideas to take this activity in all sorts of directions.



ART - Mystery Salad Spinner Art

- Provide white crayons for children to draw an invisible picture on white paper.
- Then, place in a salad spinner and invite the child to drop diluted paint/liquid water colors on the picture.
- Spin!
- What appears?

