

# Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Families and Communities

let the  
Process  
not the  
product  
be your  
focus

## Art Vs. Craft

This guide provides suggestions for both ART and CRAFT experiences. Art experiences are a program requirement and must be offered daily. Crafts are optional and can be offered at your discretion. Whenever you offer a craft, 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.

- **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. To discover more about process art– click [here](#).
- **Craft** options are a little more structured and incorporate the goal of exercising **fine motor skills**. These are also more project oriented and teacher guided.

Unless otherwise noted, all activities are OK for toddlers through SA, with the understanding that adults must provide appropriate supervision and age-appropriate materials.

## Implementation:

The success of Art and Crafts relies heavily on teacher implementation. Your environment and interactions will influence how children interact with art materials.



**Small groups**– Art should be facilitated in a group of no more than 4 children! Small groups= higher quality interactions.

**Center Vs. Activity**– Setting up an art center where students can participate as they please will provide students with a higher quality experience.

**Repetition** is necessary to gain mastery of a task. Therefore, art and craft experiences are intended

**Smocks** will help contain the mess and are required for the majority of the options. Do NOT remove children's clothing for art/craft

**Be responsive and flexible** based on your children's interest.

**Process Vs. Product**- How can teachers focus on creativity and value process over product? Click [here](#) for more information.

## Safety:

In all classrooms, teachers are responsible for (1) providing active supervision, (2) knowing children's abilities well, and (3) using good judgement about which materials each child can safely use.

**Shaving cream** is no longer permitted in any of our centers!

**Glitter** is not permitted in infant or toddler rooms due to concerns about children's eyes. To substitute, dye sugar with food coloring for the same effect.

**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. Tissue paper can be used in full sheets and large pieces, but small pieces should be discarded.

**Be aware of allergies!** Double check allergy cards when preparing materials for arts & crafts (flour, cinnamon, etc.)

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### ART—Family Scenes

- Provide children with construction paper shapes, magazine images, photocopies of family photos, glue, and drawing tools.
- Encourage creativity as they make a scene that depicts their families, homes, yards, and pets. Have fun!



### ART & CRAFT—Family Trees

There are so many ways to make a family tree:

- Make photocopies of children's family photos for them to glue to a construction paper trunk.
- Use handprints for leaves and an arm print for the trunk. Add names in marker.
- Use bulletin board paper to make a large tree for the entire classroom to add their families to!



### ART– “I Can Be...”

Help children trace the outline of their body on a large sheet of bulletin board paper. PreS and PreK children can then cut the outline out. Toddler teachers– please cut out the outline for your little ones.

Then invite children to decorate the outline as another member of the family. Give them ideas such as Mom, Dad, Grandma, or Grandpa.

“I can be Mom!”



### ART/CRAFT– Family Mobile (Ages3+)

Invite children to draw a picture of each member of their family. Show them how to cut out each picture and glue onto strong paper or cardboard. Punch a hole in the top of the pictures and hang using yarn or string onto a hanger to make a mobile. Children can print their last name on a piece of paper to tape to the mobile.



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### ART—Pet Prints

- Provide black paper, white paint, and toy pet animals.
- Invite children to make paw prints with their pets.
- Add variety with different colors of paint or by encouraging older children to draw or cut out homes or yards for their pets, too.



### ART & CRAFT—Pet Puppets

- Provide paper lunch bags, a variety of precut construction paper shapes, glue, and drawing materials.
- Challenge children to make pet puppets using the materials provided. Pre-K children may opt to cut out their own features, while younger children may need adult assistance.



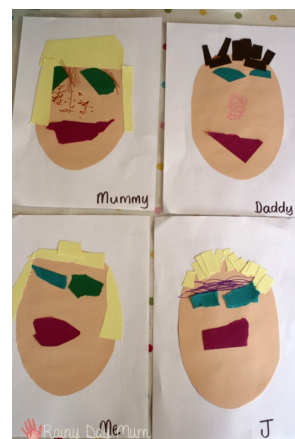
### ART - Family Stick Puppets (ages 4+)

- Use craft sticks (both sizes), markers, and pipe cleaner to create family stick puppets!
- Pre-K friends may need a teacher to demonstrate/assist with wrapping the pipe cleaner arms around the craft stick.



### ART/Craft– Family Portraits

Provide a mirror and complete the fun family portrait activity found [here!](#)





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### ART & CRAFT– Shape Houses

Provide little ones with a series of cut out shapes. Invite children to arrange the shapes to create their “dream home!” Remember to focus on the process– instead of the product! Each house will end up looking different and unique– and that is what makes this activity exciting!



### ART– Milk Carton houses

Collect upcycled milk cartons– one for each child. (Recruit the help of parents!) Invite children to decorate that milk carton any way that they wish. Display milk cartons to extend to “My Neighborhood” or add to your Block Center for added fun!



### ART & CRAFT - H is for House (ages 3+)

- Provide children with a large letter H to use as the basic structure of the house.
- They can use markers and construction paper to add a roof, doors, and additional features and details!
- This is a perfect addition to alphabet art books!



### ART - Paper Bag Houses

- Stuff lunch bags with crumpled paper to help them stay upright, then staple closed.
- Children use dot stickers and other decorative materials to create a paper bag house.



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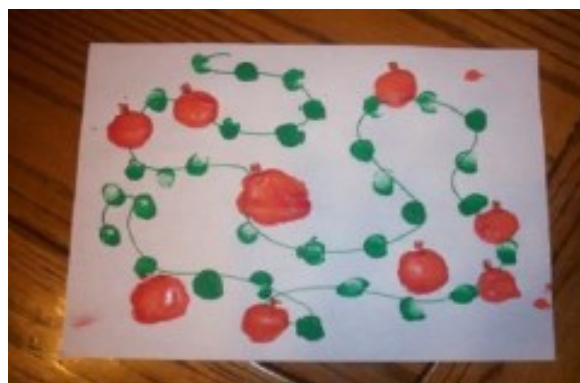
### ART & CRAFT - Coffee Filter Apple Art

- Provide an apple template for the children to trace and cut out (Assist the children with cutting out the middle of the apple).
- Have children use green, red, and yellow markers to color the coffee filter.
- Spray the coffee filter using a spray bottle so that it creates that tie dye effect.
- Glue coffee filter to the back of the apple.
- Toddler teachers: Pre-cut apples and use bingo dabbers instead of markers.



### ART - Pumpkin Patches

- Use the pumpkin shaped sponges and have the children make pumpkin prints on the white paper.
- Once dry, allow the children to use green crayons to connect their pumpkins with a vine and use their finger prints to make leaves.
- Ask open ended questions to promote creativity.



### CRAFT - Jack-O-Lantern

- Provide children with paper plates.
- Place orange tissue paper out for them to cut and glue on their pumpkin.
- Have them design their own faces on their pumpkin to create a jack-o-lantern.
- Toddler teachers – pre-cut eyes, noses, and mouth options for children to choose from.



### ART — Pumpkin Painting

- Allow each child to decorate the pumpkin they brought in using decorative materials.
- Tempera paint does not work well on the smooth surface of a pumpkin. Instead, consider trying the shiny glue.
- Mix glue and food coloring together.
- It will create a shiny effect.



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### ART & CRAFT - Apple Prints

- Provide children with apples that have been cut in half.
- Put out red, yellow, and green paint.
- Allow the children to dip their apples in each color and make apple prints on their paper.



### ART & CRAFT- Neighborhood Mural

Hang a large sheet of bulletin board paper and invite children to add elements of a neighborhood! Cut out black strips of paper and invite children to add roads to the neighborhood. Then, add art to the mural that represents different landmarks. (These do not have to look like the landmarks!) Invite toddlers to draw, color, and create the landmarks based on their understanding and then hang them on the paper! (Or they can draw right on the paper!)



### CRAFT- Map It Out! (Ages 3+)

Provide children with paint, crayons, construction paper, and sponges shaped like houses. Invite children to stamp the house shapes on paper and recreate their idea of their neighborhood!



### ART/CRAFT- Masking Tape Pictures

Provide children with black construction paper, white chalk, and masking tape!

Set up this center as a "Let's see where they take this!" experience. Invite children to experiment with placement of the masking tape and observe how they make decisions about their masterpiece!





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### ART/CRAFT– Fireman Hat

Cut the center of a paper plate 3/4 of the way and fold upwards. Invite little ones to decorate their fireman hat! Remember that each fireman hat will end up looking unique and special!



### CRAFT– Dentist Art Ages 3+

Fold a piece of pink paper in half and provide children with marshmallows. Invite them to glue the marshmallows inside the “mouth” to represent teeth!



### ART– Painting with Hats

Find your little ones favorite community helper hat! (Fireman, policeman, construction worker.. Etc.) Then, tape two paintbrushes to either side of the hat. Hang up a large sheet of paper on the easel and invite children to paint using their hat!



### ART - Painting Bubble Wrap (Construction Worker Art)

- Secure a large sheet of bubble wrap to the Easel. Provide paint cups, brushes and rollers. Encourage children to brush on paint, then roll it with the rolling tool (a rolling pin will also work if you don't have a tool). Please collaborate with fellow staff and share these tools. Once painted, invite children to press clean paper against the bubble wrap to make a print!
- This activity is great for core strength and coordination as well as a fascinating art technique.



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### ART & CRAFT - Building Fences (Farms)

- Invite children to paint or draw a farm scene (or any scene) of their choice.
- Then, provide craft sticks and glue to build a fence in the foreground of the picture!



### CRAFT– Egg Carton Fire Trucks

Collect upcycled egg cartons– one for each child. (Recruit parents to help!) Invite children to paint their fire engine and then add details such as ladders, wheels, and a photo of themselves at the front!



### ART– Chalk and Cookie Cutter Art

Invite children to use chalk and cookie cutters to make individual masterpieces! Show little ones how to color inside and around the cookie cutter.



### ART– Healthcare Collage (Ages 3+)

Provide children with materials generally found at the Doctors office!

Band-aids, craft sticks, gauze, and gloves are just a few ideas.

Invite children to create a collage using the materials.





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### ART- Carrot Painting ( All ages)

Provide each child with a piece of paper, variety of colors of paint, and a carrot. Encourage the children to use the carrot to paint with.



### CRAFT– Safety Light Color Matching

Prepare a rectangle shape ahead of time for each child. Draw three circles on the rectangle to form a traffic light! (One red, one yellow, and one green.) Provide children with corresponding colors of construction paper to tear and glue into the matching circle.

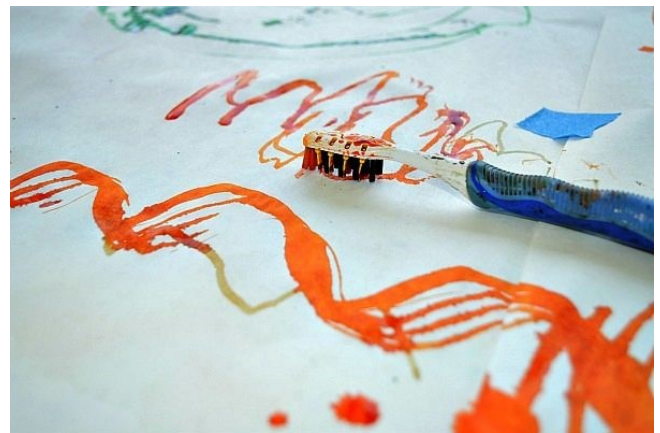
OPEN ART OPPORTUNITY– Once children have completed their “Safety Light” continue to provide construction paper for tearing and encourage little ones to create a “torn paper mosaic!”



### ART– Toothbrush Painting

You will need construction paper, a tooth brush, and paint!

Invite children to dip their toothbrush in paint and brush it onto the paper!



### ART– Germ Sculptures

Invite little ones to imagine what germs may look like. Then provide children with playdough and open art materials to sculpt their ideas!

Once children have completed their germ sculpture, take a picture to share!



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### ART/CRAFT– Healthy Food Collage

Provide children with cooking magazines. Invite little ones to find photos of healthy food. Toddlers will need their pictures precut while ages 3+ can try to cut out the photos on their own.

Glue photos onto a paper plate or simply a piece of construction paper!



### ART– Soapy Finger paint

Mix a small amount of dish soap into some paint! Encourage little ones to make a soapy handprint masterpiece!

Added Bonus– Adding dish soap to paint will make for easier cleanup!



### ART- Dance Mural ( All Ages)

- Provide the children with a big piece of bulletin board paper (Make sure the paper is taped down to the floor for this activity).
- Set out different colors of paint
- Put on fun and upbeat music and invite the children to step in any color paint and use their dance moves on the paper to create a fun and exciting masterpiece.
- Invite them to use streamers to hold as they dance around on the paper.



### ART– Throw Ball Splatter Painting

Gather a large cardboard box, paint, and a couple balls. Then, take your art experience outside!

Invite children to dip the balls in paint and throw them into the cardboard box to create a beautiful collaborative masterpiece!





### ART/CRAFT- Black and White

Using a variety of materials children can explore the difference in black and white.

Provide children with black and white paint, black and white crayons, black and white pieces of paper.. Etc. to create a black and white collage.

\*3 and up can use scissors to cut their own paper. No scissors or hole punchers for toddlers please. \*



### ART-Big and Little Block Prints

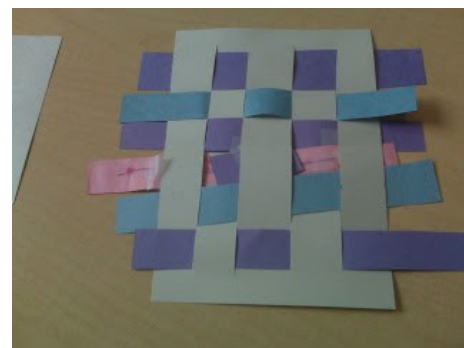
Collect different sized blocks from all around the classroom. Provide children with different colored paint and allow them to explore stamping with the different sized blocks. Talk with them and point out how big blocks make a big print and small blocks make a small print. Discuss how they are different.

This could also be done on bulletin board paper and used for displays!



### CRAFT- Under and Over Weaving ( ages 3+)

- Cut four slits into a sheet of construction paper.
- Cut various strips of construction paper.
- Lead the children in weaving the strips of construction paper under and over the slits. Discuss how these are opposites.



### ART- Opposite Texture Art

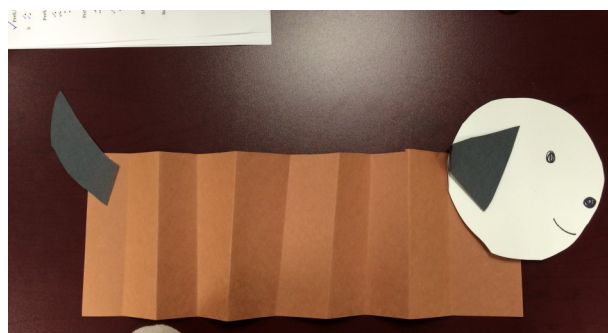
- Provide students with materials of different textures. (soft, hard, scratchy)
- These could be items such as pompoms (large only for toddlers), egg cartons, sand paper, felt , feathers, etc..
- Guide students in gluing different textures to their paper and talk about the different way that the objects feel.





### CRAFT– Long and Short (Ages 3+)

- Provide students with a long piece of construction paper, a tail cut out, a circle cut out, and a small triangle cut-out.
- Guide students in gluing the tail and head to the body of the dog. Allow them to decorate them any way they desire.
- Show and encourage students how to fold the construction paper accordion style.
- Talk about the difference in long and short when they pull the paper apart and push it back together.
- The product should not look exactly like the picture.



### CRAFT- Turkey handprints

- Invite the children to paint their own hands brown (toddler teachers paint toddler hands).
- Place handprints on white paper. Provide feathers, glue, crayons, eyes, and paper for the children to use to create turkeys. Children can create a scenic background when finished.

\*Toddler teachers please use dot stickers for eyes.



### ART/CRAFT- Silly Turkey Tracks! (Ages 3+ Preschool & PreK ONLY)

- At a table top or easel, set up an art center that invites children to tinker with the marks that a fork or spork makes. Ask them what the marks remind them of!
- Allow children to explore freely, discovering all the ways to use the new paint tool.
- Provide additional materials to elaborate on their piece if you'd like (art cart supplies, felt, natural items found outside, etc.)
- This could also be done on bulletin board paper and used for displays..



### CRAFT- Thankful turkey (ages 3+)

- You will need two paper bowls, a paper towel tube (cut in half) and a section of an egg carton. (this will be the turkeys hat.)
- Follow this link for a complete list of directions: <http://www.crafts-for-all-seasons.com/thankful-turkey-craft.html>

This would be a great addition as a centerpiece for our thanksgiving feast!

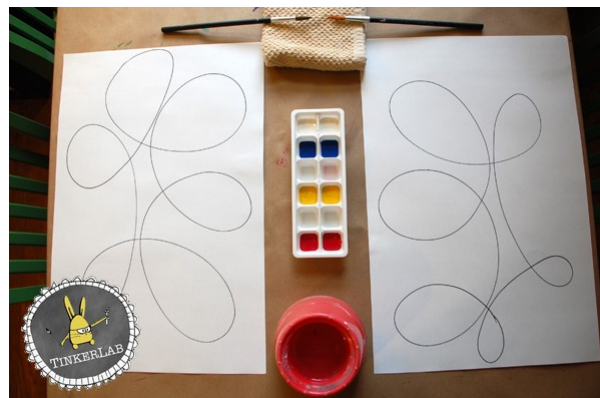


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### ART & CRAFT - Creative Table

Process art focuses on the experience and exploration of techniques, tools, and materials. "Creative Tables" are a great way to encourage children to experiment in an open and supportive environment.

Click [here](#) for inspiration and ideas!



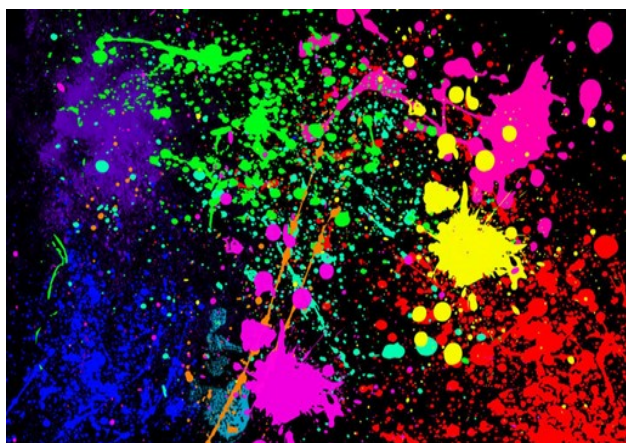
### ART - Upside Down Art

- 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- Relay Splatter Painting

- Hang up 2 big pieces of bulletin board paper on the fence. (weather permitting)
- Provide different colors of paints.
- Divide children into two groups at the opposite end of the bulletin board paper.
- The first two artists from each team will race to the other end, pick up a paint brush, dip it in paint, and splatter it on the paper. Then, they will run back and tag the next team mate in line.
- Toddler teachers can have the children just run back



### ART & CRAFT - Circle Art

- Get children excited about circle art! Invite them to be a part of the process by asking them to collect plastic toys from around the room that are circles and bring them back to the rug. Then, invite them to create a circle painting together with all of the items. (paper/ Styrofoam plates, sponges circles, plastic blocks, felt circles, plastic lids, balls, and even an orange!
- Lead them to a table that you've pre-wrapped in bulletin board paper with brushes and paint cups. Show them how to paint the circle objects and make stamps.





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### 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 - Spinning Art (Ages 3+)

- Ask parents for some old CDs to use for an art project. You'll only need 3-4. Insert washable markers through the middle to create a spinning top!
- Show children how to spin them on bulletin board paper placed spread out on a large area on the floor.
- Not only will this result in some fascinating designs, it will challenge little hand muscles and coordination to spin the top.

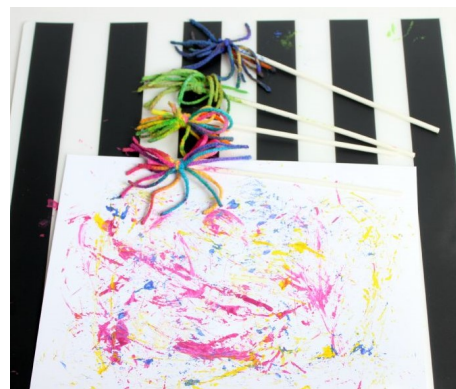


### ART- Yarn Paint Brushes

Click [here](#) for directions on how to create yarn paint brushes!

There are many ways to incorporate this experience into your day including:

- Painting on individual pieces of construction paper
- Bringing yarn paint brushes to the easel
- Creating a yarn paint brush collage by taping a large sheet of bulletin board paper to a table!



### CRAFT - Salt Art

- Invite children to draw a picture with glue. (To build fine motor muscles, use the small 4oz glue bottles - be sure to ask your director to order 2-3 for your room if you don't have any)
- Sprinkle salt (empty glitter or salt shakers would be especially fun!)
- Dip a paintbrush in water and food coloring and touch it to the salt.
- Children will be mesmerized!

