

Art Vs. Craft

let the
Process
not the
Product
be your
focus



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 and can be adapted for toddlers through SA, with the understanding that adults must provide appropriate supervision and age-appropriate materials.

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| 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 to be repeated. |
| | Smocks will help contain the mess and are required for the majority of the options. Do NOT remove children’s clothing for art/craft activities. |
| | 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 rooms and is not recommended for toddlers due to concerns about children’s eyes. To substitute, dye sugar with food coloring for the same effect. |
| | Choke-ables (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.) |

Please feel free to send your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions to db.educationteam@gmail.com, and/or complete a Program Input Form [here](#)!

ART & CRAFT - Cupcake Flowers

- Provide children with cupcake liners, craft sticks, paint, and any other decorative materials to create their flowers.
- Once dry add a photo to one of their flowers and glue a craft stick on the back of each. These could be added to a mother's day flower pot or cup. Flower seeds were included in last month's supplies along with soil and foil cupcake tins to begin sprouting seeds. You can transfer them now!



CRAFT - Firefly Mason Jar

- Cut out a mason jar shape (found [here](#) if needed) and yellow oval for the bottom.
- Have children use a stamp pad or paint to make fingerprints on the jar. Draw (or have them draw) firefly shapes on top of the fingerprints when they're dry.
- Glue oval with "Mom, you light up my life!" onto the bottom of the jar and decorate with ribbon (optional) for a finishing touch!



ART & CRAFT — Framed Art (Ages 3+)

- Assist children in constructing the frame and gluing.
- Once dry, encourage children to paint the frame however they choose and decorate. Ideas: old puzzle pieces, artificial flowers, feathers, sequins, beads, glitter, etc.
- Hot glue/glue ribbon to the back for hanging, and attach art work or photo inside the frame using glue/hot glue.



CRAFT - Salt Dough Footprints and Handprint Frames

- Check out the step-by-step tutorial for the footprint hearts [here](#)! Feel free to use a handprint instead of a footprint, a circle instead of a heart, etc.
- To make the handprint frames, have children make a handprint in salt dough, and then use a sharp knife to carefully cut out around their handprint (TEACHERS ONLY should use knives). Have them use a small cookie cutter to cut out a heart or circle in the middle, let dry, and paint
- Please note that these can also be air-dried instead of baked—it will take 1-3 days but will most likely be easier than trying to find 3 hours to use and supervise the oven!



CRAFT – Umbrellas

- Cut out an umbrella top for each child; ages 3+ can work towards cutting out their own rain drops, but toddler teachers will need to precut raindrops.
- Provide children with open art materials to decorate their umbrella, and then help children assemble their umbrellas by gluing a popsicle stick to the umbrella top, gluing one side of a piece of string to the umbrella top and the other side of a piece of string to the raindrop.



Remember, process over product! If children glue the popsicle stick on the 'wrong' side of their umbrella, that's okay! This picture should be used only as a guideline.

ART/CRAFT – Paper Plate Sun-Catcher

- Cut out the center of a paper plate and stick a piece of contact paper to the edges of the center (leaving the most of the sticky portion exposed).
- Encourage children to color, paint, or bingo dab the edges of the paper plate. Then, have children tear pieces of tissue paper to stick to the contact paper!



ART - Rainbow Golf Ball Painting

- Cut out a rainbow shape for each child. Place a separate color of paint in each of the compartments of an egg carton.
- Place a golf ball in each compartment of the egg carton. Place the rainbow shape in a box or basket. Little ones can pick up each of the golf balls, place them in the container with their rainbow, and shake the containers to create a rainbow masterpiece!



ART/CRAFT – Cloudy Art

- Provide children with cotton balls. Show them how to dab the cotton balls in glue and stick them on their paper to create a cloud.
- Then, provide children with glue (they can paint it on). Show children how to sprinkle the colored rice (with their hands or with a spoon) on their paper to create raindrops!

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ART - Rain Painting

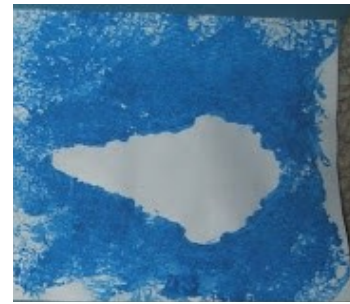
- Use the April showers in an art project! Give each child a paper plate. Write their names on the plates in sharpie. Help them place a few drops of food coloring or tempera paint on the plate. Walk outside with the paper plates while it is lightly raining. Leave the plates in the rain for a minute or so. Bring the plates inside to explore the new designs created by the rain.

You may want to work with the other teacher in your classroom to do this in two smaller groups, or have children watch through the window while a teacher places their project in view.



ART—Clouds that look like....

- Create a variety of starters for little ones to choose from. Allow them to choose which starter they would like to paint over. Help them tape the starter to their piece of paper, and then show them how to paint with blue paint over the starter to create a cloud!



ART- Cloudy Day Paintings

- Provide students with white and black paint. Allow them to use their hands, a paintbrush, or any other tool they desire to create a big gray cloud!

This is a great time to talk about cause and effect. "When I mix white and black, I make gray!"



ART - Rainy Day Book

- Brainstorm some fun ways to spend a rainy day. Provide each child with a large paper plate and art materials. Encourage each child to illustrate his favorite way to spend a rainy day.
- Using the phrase, "Rainy days are good for _____", record each child's dictation on the plate.
- Bind the pages by punching two holes on the left side of each plate (include a cover), and securing the plates with pipe cleaners. Display the book in your classroom library!



CRAFT - Changing Seasons (4+)

- Provide students with paper and colored tissue paper (or other materials to designate different seasons), and encourage them to decorate a tree in each season or make a seasonal collage!



CRAFT - Textured Paper Garden

- Use unconventional painting tools like potato masher, scouring pad and sponges to make prints. To get a textured effect add salt to paint.
- Let prints dry, then cut them out and use them to make gardenscapes!



CRAFT — Cooperative Seed Painting (Ages 3+)

Divide the children into pairs, then help each pair to:

- Place a piece of newsprint inside an empty cylinder container and spoon in some paint (a little bit of 2 or 3 colors).
- Add a few different seeds to the can. Close the can tightly. Roll the can back and forth (across the table or floor); shake & rattle the can. Remove the newsprint to reveal a design created by the seeds.
- Repeat the process so each child has a painting. Mount the paintings on colored construction paper with the heading “(child’s name) & (child’s name)’s Cooperative Seed Painting.”



ART - Pond Scenes

- Provide assorted paper, 'pond' like diluted tempera paint colors or watercolors (greens, blues, browns, flower colors), paintbrushes, tissue paper, construction paper, art cart materials.
- Display pond photos and provide children with materials to create their own pond scene!



ART- Pond Prints

Provide big paper, paint on paper plates, and an assortment of toy pond animals.

- Demonstrate how to dip an animals and make tracks across the paper (snakes slither, frogs hop, bugs fly and land over and over again, fish swim, jump, and splash) .
- Talk about how each animal moves in a pond while you make prints!



ART- Paint on the Run!

- Ahead of time, combine equal parts glue and tempera paint.
- Provide each child with a paper plate and a spoon. Allow the children to spoon glue/paint mixture onto the plate, then twist and turn the plate to see the mixture run & create a design. Provide glitter to sprinkle over the wet design.
- Toddler teachers, omit glitter. You can offer construction paper pieces to tear and sprinkle on instead if you'd like.



ART - Lily Pad Easel Starter

- Provide each child 1-2 lily pad/water lily cut outs (ages 3+ can draw and cut out their own). Small paper plates work well for this.
- Provide crayons, paint, sponges cut into pond animals shapes, and assorted art cart materials (including fabric flowers) to create their own lily pad.

Ages 4+ Extension—Try making “the life cycle of a frog” using paper plates as show in the photo.



CRAFT - Parts of a Flower Art

- Use a pipe cleaner as the stem and glue to construction paper. Then glue pieces of yarn to the bottom of the stem as roots.
- Fold/crumple the tissue paper into a flower shape and glue to the top of the stem. Pre-cut or allow children to cut some leaves out of the construction paper and glue to the middle of the stem.



Remember to allow children to place the parts of their flower wherever they like! Give them complete control of the project. How they place the different materials will help you understand what they have learned.

CRAFT- Giant Sunflower Craft (Ages 3+)

- Remove the lid and label from an oatmeal container ahead of time. Make pencil marks as shown to the right.
- Have children help cut the strips using the marks. Fold back the petals and paint. Poke a broom handle through for a stem and fill the center with tissue paper.

This will mostly likely work best as a group project in which each child will have a chance to participate in part of the project (cutting, painting, etc.). If it goes well, you could create more than one flower!



CRAFT— Colorful Flowers

- Plant a flower of your choice in a sturdy plastic cup or small flower pot. Choose a seed that will have a sprout or flower fairly quickly. Use pebbles on the bottom to drain and potting soil.
- Suggestions: **Marigolds** - 1 month to bloom (5-7 days to sprout) **Sunflowers** - 7-10 days to sprout (will need to be transplanted at home and will bloom much later) **Nasturtiums** - small, edible flowers that bloom in less than a month.



Craft - Cupcake Liner Flowers

- Browse photos of flowers together with your students, and display for inspiration if possible during the craft.
- Provide large sheets of paper as a blank garden canvas, assorted cupcake liners, craft sticks, and lots of art cart materials to build unique flowers with (cotton fluff, buttons, dot stickers, glitter, fabric flowers, felt, etc.).
- You could combine all of your students' flowers into one giant class flower garden if you'd like!

Toddler teachers, omit glitter and avoid small items that could potentially be choking hazards.



ART - Pop Bottle Flowers

- Provide an assortment of empty bottles and shallow containers of paint. Demonstrate dipping the bottom of a plastic bottle into paint, then pressing it onto the paper to create a flower shape; demonstrate using a bottle cap to print the flower's center.
- Encourage the children to create their own pop-bottle prints; provide paint brushes so they can add stems and leaves.

You can extend this activity by inviting the children to create additional prints on a length of bulletin board paper!



ART/CRAFT - Worms!

- Set up the Fine Motor Center with a container of clothespins, tweezers, or both along with a container of yarn pieces to represent 'worms.' You can also add a carpet square or other interesting surface texture to enhance the experience.
- Challenge students to pick up one 'worm' at a time and transfer it to the 'pond.' You could add a dice or two for older age groups for them to roll and count too.
- Extend into an art piece, by providing contact paper to stick the worms on or construction paper and glue to make a worm collage!



ART - Melting Bug Painting

- Ahead of time, place toy bugs and tempera paint in ice cube trays and freeze. Cover a table with bulletin board paper.
- Encourage your students to use the frozen bugs to paint!
- As they melt, they can discover what insects are hiding inside.



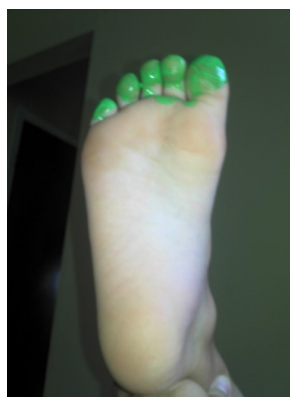
ART - Roll Painting

- Place several paints in squirt bottles if you have them, or provide small cups with spoons to scoop and make blobs on paper.
- Invite students to place a few blobs on big paper, then roll, roll, roll! You could use play dough tools, a toy vehicle, or anything else to apply pressure to move and mix the paint.
- Extend by placing another piece of paper on top to make a print!



ART/CRAFT - Caterpillar Toes

- Either sitting or standing, guide children in dipping their toes in paint and stamping on their paper to make a caterpillar! invite children to freely make multiple footprints (in addition the caterpillar).
- Let dry slightly, then add scenery and other details to the caterpillar.
- Provide a bin of soapy warm water for easy toe clean up.



CRAFT - Nature Insects (Ages 3+)

- Take your students on a nature walk and collect nature items that can be used to build bugs! (leaves, stems, twigs, seeds, etc.)
- Provide children with construction paper and glue and encourage them to use their imagination to construct an insect out of their collected items.



Remember, process over product! These pictures should be used only as a guideline.

CRAFT - Coffee Filter Butterflies

- Set out white coffee filters, eye droppers, diluted food coloring or paint in small cups, pipe cleaners/yarn.
- Teachers may want to bunch the butterflies and tie the pipe cleaners ahead of time for preschoolers and toddlers.
- In small groups children will use droppers to squeeze drops of color onto their coffee filter. Encourage them to describe their observations as they watch the colors expand and change.
- VARIATION: Precut the filters into other shapes such as frogs, dragonflies, ducks, etc.



ART - Move Your Wings!

- Provide bulletin board paper and crayons
- Have a child demonstrate how to lay on their tummy and move their arms up and down, like the fast wings of a bee or firefly! Then, give them a crayon in each hand and ask them to repeat, making marks as they 'fly.'
- Talk about the designs on the paper.



ART/CRAFT Bumble Bees (2 options)

ART Option:

Children will construct their bee using paint instead of construction paper. Guide them in painting stripes on their hands in a yellow black pattern or paint for them. After stamping, they can paint on a head, antennae , and wings.

CRAFT Option :

Allow children to freely construct their bumble bee using the construction paper pieces you provided them (circles, stripes, etc.)



ART - Outdoor Doodle Art

- Provide Bulletin board paper, paint, paper plates Encourage children to play in small groups, dipping their feet and hands in paint and dancing around the paper like bees, fireflies, and other fast buzzing insects!



ART - I Can...Collage!

- Use contact paper (sticky side up) on the table, floor, or even outdoors (on the exterior wall, fence, or ground) as the canvas for a collage.
- Provide a variety of paper scraps and decorative materials.

Toddler Teachers—use caution to avoid choking hazards.



ART - I Can...Build a Sculpture!

- Provide each student with their own cup/container, access to water, and a variety of art materials. Tell them they are going to make an ice sculpture by placing their own unique mix of materials, color, and water into a cup/container and then freezing it!
- Freeze cups. Later, take frozen cups outside to investigate and build with them in a sensory bin!



CRAFT - I Can...Grow Green Hair!

- Ahead of time, take photos of children's faces (as silly as they'd like), print, and attach to clear plastic cups as shown.
- Invite children to prepare their cup for growing 'hair' by scooping in some potting soil and moistening it with some water.
- Sprinkle some grass seed and place in a window sill to soak up some sun! Observe daily as they grow. Eventually, they can use scissors (ages 3+) to give themselves a trim!



ART - I Can...Paint on the Sidewalk!

- Mix 1/2 cup cornstarch, 1/2 cup water, and tempera paint.
- Make several batches, each with a different color in containers with lids for easy transport.
- Bring outside with paintbrushes!

