

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 and can be adapted 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 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](mailto:db.educationteam@gmail.com),

and/or complete a Program Input Form [here](#)!

## ART - Have you ever painted with your feet? (3+)

- Provide brushes, paint, paper, and a surface to paint upon on the floor.
- Invite children to try painting with both right and left feet and encourage lots of conversation! Is it difficult? How do your toes feel?
- Be sure to document this unusual but super fun painting technique!



## ART - Oily Art (Youtube example [here!](#))

- You'll need a painting surface that doesn't absorb such as a sensory bin, plastic dramatic play plates, etc.
- You'll also need smocks, baby oil, corn syrup, food coloring, spoons and containers, and eye droppers and magnifying glasses if you wish.
- Mix corn syrup with a color. Mix water with a color in a separate container. Experiment with mixing the liquids; trying different combinations of colors, and adding baby oil. What does it look like with a magnifying glass?



## ART – Fly Swatter Painting

- Fly Swatters make perfect (outdoor) paintbrushes.
- Provide a large length of bulletin board paper for a mural and extra pieces for individual work.
- Use paper plates to provide a variety of paint choices.



## ART - Thick paint project

- Help children mix flour and white paint together to make a paste and invite them to paint.
- When finished, little artists can make imprints in the thick paint with painting tools, upcycled bottles, stamps, toy vehicles, etc.



### ART/CRAFT - Drinking Straw Art (Ages 3+)

- Provide drinking straws along with plenty of art cart materials (scissors, bottle caps, pom poms, glue, chalk, paper)
- Provide students with materials to create anything they'd like!



### ART - Hula Hoop Teamwork Paintings (Outdoor Project)

- Hula Hoops, Sidewalk Chalk Paint (1/2 cup cornstarch, 1/2 cup water, food coloring)
- Pair students up or create small teams depending on your classroom dynamic. Each team will need a hula hoop, sidewalk chalk paint, and brushes.
- One friend will create a hula hoop shadow like the one in the photo and hold! The rest of the teammates will paint in the shadow. Each team member should get a turn with the hula hoop.



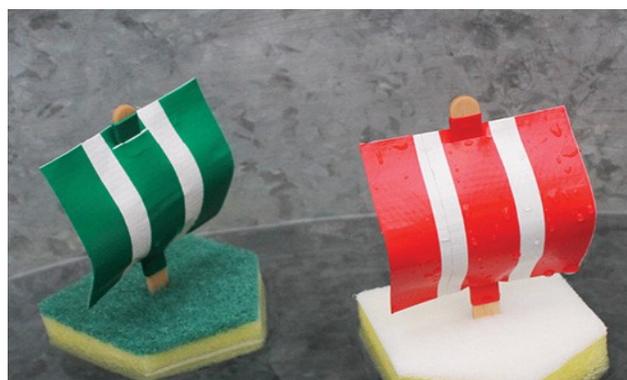
### ART & CRAFT - Painting with Boxes and Balls

- Supersize the usual 'marble painting' by providing boxes and balls of varied sizes.
- Experiment with dropping the balls from different heights, rolling them, etc. to create different results.



### CRAFT - Sponge Sailboats

- Cut sponge bases ahead of time and cut index cards into squares or another shape of your choice.
- Invite each child to paint a poster board sail and craft stick. Once sail is dry, seal with clear packing tape to make it waterproof.
- Most children will need help assembling the parts to create their sailboat by cutting slits in index card and inserting the craft stick as shown. Add glue to secure if you'd like. Insert craft stick into sponge and use a little hot glue to secure.



## ART - Slide Painting

- **Slide Painting:** Tape a length of bulletin board paper to the (outdoor) slide and invite children to dip a ball in paint, then roll it down the slide. Repeat with varied sizes, colors, and speed to create an awesome mural.



## ART - Wheely Art (Outdoor Only!)

- Bulletin board paper, assorted colored paint, toys with wheels, bikes and trikes
- Place bulletin board paper on ground. Squirt several blobs of paint in various areas.
- Encourage children to work together, taking turns rolling toy vehicles, wheels, etc. through the paint on onto the paper. On trikes or bikes, children can also run over a paper plate of paint, then wheel over the paper!



## CRAFT - Craft Stick Airplanes (3+)

- You'll need 2 large craft sticks, 1 small craft stick, 1 clothespin, glue, paint, \*foil optional
- Guide children in constructing an airplane using the items above. Invite them to paint it and/or use foil to wrap the wings or tear foil into pieces and glue on everywhere
- You could add magnets to the back so children can take home and put them on their refrigerator to hold art work!



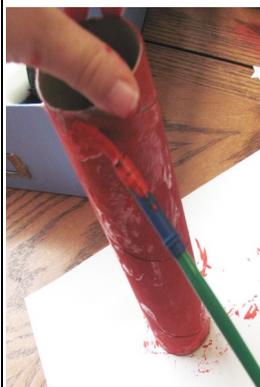
## ART - Action Art (Outdoor only - wear swimsuits)

- Crayons, paint, bulletin board paper, paper plates
- Hang bulletin board paper at eye level on a bulletin board or on an outdoor space like the fence.
- Provide students with the option of crayons or paint and invite them to use their hands, fingers, brushes, and any other tool they would like to use with paint.
- Encourage them to do 'sports moves' as they make marks, i.e., running past the paper and brushing it with paint, jumping and making high five prints, skipping, sliding side to side, running backwards, pretending to ice skate, etc.



## ART - Paper Towel Tube Art

- How many ways can you use a paper towel tube to create art?
- Give each child a tube, lots of paint options, brushes, and an option of paper (long bulletin board paper, easel paper, big paper on a table top, a box)
- Invite children to experiment with the materials as they wish! Offer some ideas if they seem reluctant to dive in.



## ART - Painting with Hands and Feet

- While younger children will enjoy the sensory experience alone, older children can be challenged with alternatives, like measuring friends' heights with handprints or footprints on mural paper, or seeing what kind of art emerges from doing various yoga poses with painted hands or feet.



## CRAFT - Pennants and Flags

- Provide children with poster board flags or felt pennants and a variety of craft materials.
- Children ages 3+ are encouraged to cut out the templates themselves.
- Help children personalize them with the child's name, their favorite colors/shapes, etc.



## ART- Bouncing Art! (Outdoors)

- You'll need bulletin board paper, tennis balls, basketball, large paper plates, assorted colored paint
- Invite children to dip the balls in paint and bounce them on paper.
- Talk about what is happening! "How do the marks look? Are they different for each type of ball? What happens when you bounce the ball really high? Really low? What happens when it rolls?"



## ART - Texture Painting

### Possible textured paint recipes:

1. Puffy Paint (flour, salt, water, coloring)
2. Oatmeal Paint (paint & oatmeal)
3. Koolaid Paint (paint & koolaid)
4. Glitter Paint (paint & glitter)

### Possible paint surfaces to experiment with:

- Sandpaper, Foil, Tissue paper, Cardboard

\*You could also squeeze glue designs onto paper/cardboard/cardstock. Let dry and use as a canvas.



## ART - Soapy Slimy Mural (Outdoors)

- 1 cup soap flakes, 3 cups warm water, food coloring/paint (hand mixer if available)
- Hang bulletin board paper ahead of time outside on a flat surface or lay it on the ground.
- Mix paint with students.
- Encourage a community art mural project as they explore this super messy substance with their hands, brushes, and other art tools you provide.
- Feel free to add an extra batch to a sensory tub with tools to explore it as a sculpting sensory material as well.



## ART - Rubberband Splatter Painting (Ages 3+)

- Wrap several rubber bands of varying sizes around a shoebox (plastic or cardboard) minus the top.
- Place paper the bottom of the shoebox.
- Apply a thick coat of paint to one rubber band at a time. Immediately flick the painted rubber band towards the paper to create a Jackson Pollock-quality splatter painting!



## ART - Sloppy Slimy Self Portraits

- Construction paper, crayons/writing utensils, goop ingredients (each batch = 1/2 cup cornstarch, 1/4 cup water, 1/4 cup glue, food coloring) \*feel free to add any other materials to the goop such as glitter.
- Ask each child to draw a self portrait. Tell them when they are finished with their picture, they will get to add goop to it and slime themselves to show how much messy fun they had during the week. Let dry for several days.



## Art & Craft Guide - June 2016 (June 6 - July 1)

### ART - Swirly Prints

- Use squeeze bottles of paint to engage fine motor muscles. Encourage children to make swirly designs on paper plates.
- Press a blank piece of construction paper on top to make a print.
- Keep making prints on the same paper and see how the paper and paper plate change with each press.



### ART/CRAFT – Sticky 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, using caution with children under 3 to avoid choking hazards.



### ART - Ice Sculptures

- Plastic cups/containers—1 per student, water, food coloring, and any art cart materials you wish to provide (beads, glitter, sequins, tissue paper, etc.)
- Provide each student with their own cup/container, access to water, and a variety of art cart 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!
- Once frozen, investigate ice sculptures outside to or in a sensory bin that will help get the ice out of the cup. Add poster board to paint upon with the melting sculpture!



### ART - Crayon Resistant Art

- Invite children to draw with crayons, then paint over it with watercolors.



## CRAFT - Salt/Sugar "Sand Art" Bottles

- Small plastic bottles, salt, sugar, food coloring, containers, forks, spoons, funnels, straws
- Place piles of salt in various containers. Drop several drops of food coloring in each and have students stir them with forks until color is blended. Then, provide containers, funnels, spoons, and straws and let them create!  
\*The straws can be used to make unique designs in the containers as shown in the photo.



## ART- Marshmallow Painting

- Stick a marshmallow to the end of a craft stick. Provide generous amounts of paint. Allow children to paint, engaging them in conversation about the marks the marshmallow makes!



## CRAFT - Super Hero Art

- Take a picture of children posing as a superhero! Provide them with a copy of their picture and open art materials. (scissors, construction paper, watercolors) Invite them to create an "If I was a superhero" scene! (Remember: This should be completely process oriented. Let the children decide what their scene should look like.)



## CRAFT - [Yarn Balls](#) (with a surprise!) (3+)

- You'll need balloons, small toys to put inside the balloons, glue, water, glitter, liquid starch.
- Follow the instructions [here](#), but add a bit of liquid starch to help the yarn harden.



## ART- Squish Art

- Place a paper plate or pre-cut shape of your choice in a plastic baggie. Add different colors of paint to the inside of the bag. Invite children to squish around the paint to create a colorful masterpiece!



## CRAFT - Paper Tube Sand Castles (Outdoors)

- Use paper tubes of various sizes to assemble your castle.
- Glue completed castle onto a paper plate. Brush diluted glue over castle and plate.
- Sprinkle with sandbox sand outdoors



## ART & CRAFT – Sizzle Paint (3+)

- Large piece of bulletin board paper (you may need to hold it down with rocks or other heavy objects), baking soda, spoons, white vinegar, paint \*Use paper so children have a keepsake, even though the photo does not include one.
- Place a large sheet of bulletin board paper on the ground. Make paint and vinegar spray bottles (about 2 tsp paint for every cup of vinegar)
- Invite each child to sprinkle a spoonful or two of baking soda on their paper.
- Give them a spray bottle to spray their paper and watch the baking soda sizzle! Let dry and check out the awesome design! Wear safety goggles if conditions are windy



## CRAFT - Paper Cube Sculptures (Ages 4+)

- This craft is most appropriate for SA, but older LEAP students may try based on your judgment.
- Learn more [here](#)

