

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.)

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ART - Water Color Collage

- You'll need: one piece of cardboard per child (they can choose any size/cut they'd like), a variety of white absorbent materials (coffee filters, doilies, paper towel, construction paper, paper plates) water color paints and brushes.

- Provide children with a variety of absorbent materials and invite them to tear/cut them into pieces and collage with glue on to the cardboard. After it dries, have children can paint with the water colors onto the collage. Another option is to reverse the process – have them paint on absorbent materials, then have them cut and collage with what they had painted. Let children lead their own creative adventure.



ART - Salad Spinner Art

- Salad spinner, paper plates, paint or water color, craft sticks *optional

- With a salad spinner, invite children to squirt a few drops of diluted paint onto a paper plate, place in the spinner, and SPIN! Children can take turns counting ten spins each. Glue a craft stick on the back to create a fan or prop.

- Ask children to explain what happened to the paint drops in the spinner. What does the design remind them of? Record their responses on an index card and attach.



ART - Glue, Salt, Color! (3+)

- Glue, salt, watercolors and brushes (or food coloring and eye droppers)

- Invite children to glue a design of their choice and then sprinkle with salt (you may want to use a salt shaker).

- Demonstrate how to gently dab very diluted water color or eye drop food coloring onto the design. Experiment with lots of colors and watch them bleed together!



ART - Ball Painting

Balls or small objects that roll (non-chokables for toddlers such as whiffle balls please), cylinder with lid (coffee, oatmeal, ice cream container), paint, clean egg carton for holding paint.

- Ball art has endless possibilities. Invite children to create a golf ball painting by placing dropping golf balls into paint, scooping them with a spoon, and dumping them into a cylinder lined with construction paper. Shake, roll, and dance with the cylinder, then open it to reveal the interesting piece of art!



CRAFT - Stained Glass Windows

- Tissue paper, contact paper, construction paper, scissors
- Set up an outdoor art center today to invite the sun to play a role in illuminating the vibrant colors children will work with. Provide each student with a sheet of contact paper to cut to a shape of their choice. Provide tissue paper, construction paper, and scissors. Invite them to tear, cut and stick pieces to the contact paper to make a 'stained glass' piece of art.



CRAFT - Modern Art Sculpture (3+)

- Contact paper, pipe cleaners (to replace wire), tissue paper pieces, flashlight

Learn more [here!](#)



ART - Chalk/Paint Bubble Art

- Provide dark paper, assorted chalk and paint, assorted tools (paint brushes, q-tips, circles to trace such as lids)
- Give children all materials and encourage a project approach in which pairs or small groups work together; combining their pieces together into a bigger bubble mural.
- Encourage exploration of the materials - "What happens with chalk and paint interact?"



ART/CRAFT - Rubber Band Art (3+)

See [link](#) for 3 different projects that incorporate rubber bands. Adding this materials challenges students to stretch rubber bands and build fine motor skills.



ART - Shadow Sketching (3+)

- Outdoors - sidewalk chalk and a sunny day
- Indoors - flashlight, bulletin board paper, paints/ crayons/washable markers
- Have children to take turns trying on assorted hats/ props and observing their shadow. Have a friend trace the shadow outline (either on sidewalk or bulletin board paper/posterboard) Teachers will have to do this step for toddlers.
- Invite child to fill in/decorate their outline as they wish.



ART - Creative Movement Art

- Paint, brushes and other utensils for painting, paint containers or paper plate, 2-3 large sheets of bulletin board paper. Students will have an opportunity to combine creative movement and art.
- Place a sheet of paper on the ground and invite children to run/hop with painted feet, do cartwheels with painted hands, crab walk, etc.



ART- Tree Branch Art

Gather a tree branch (sticks will work fine as well) from outside. Provide children with paint of all colors. Add pompoms and glue to the center and provide children the opportunity to glue the pompoms to the branch.

Toddler teachers please use arms reach supervision during this activity.



CRAFT/ART- Aluminum Foil Sculpture (Ages 3+)

Provide students with tin foil, construction paper, and black markers. Show children how to twist and mold the aluminum foil to create a sculpture. Then, ask them to try and create the aluminum foil's shadow on the construction paper. For some students who may need a more concrete idea, take the sculpture outside and find an angle that casts a shadow.



ART - Experimental Painting Tools

- Paint, real or plastic forks for 3+, bended pipe cleaner shapes for toddlers (circles, triangles, etc.)
- Invite children to experiment with painting with these new tools! What kind of marks do they make? What does it remind you of?



ART/CRAFT - Open Ended Handprint Art

- Paint, assorted art supplies, construction paper, glue, tissue paper
- Invite children to use their handprint to make a piece of art. See what children come up with without giving too much direction and support their unique ideas by helping them follow through.
- Toddler teachers, as always, be cautious not to provide materials that may be potential choking hazards.



ART - Spray Bottle Painting

- Dilute paint with water and place in spray bottles for children to use as an art tool.
- You can also have them start their piece by drawing with a white crayon first, then the paint will repel it and create an amazing design.



ART - Shimmery Puffy Paint!

- Mix Together 1/4 cup all-purpose flour, 1/4 cup salt (this gives it the shimmer), 1/4 cup water, Food coloring
- This will create a thick mixture. Using a funnel, pour mixture into an empty squeeze bottle. (old glue bottles work great.)
- Recipe and more detailed directions [here!](#)



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CRAFT - Nature Weaving Craft (Ages 3+)

- Go on a nature walk and collect sticks, leaves, wildflowers, twigs, pieces of bark, etc.
- Guide/Demonstrate how to create a loom with yarn and sticks first using the link [here](#).
- Then, weave yarn back and forth around the frame. Place collected items in between yarn pieces.



CRAFT - [Flower Art](#)

- You'll need: leaves and real flowers from the garden (dandelions or wildflowers that you or your families are willing to donate from their yard will work too), paper, and something to pound the flowers with (block/mallet, etc)
- Place the flower/leaf under a piece of paper and use the mallet to hammer it in order to make an imprint!



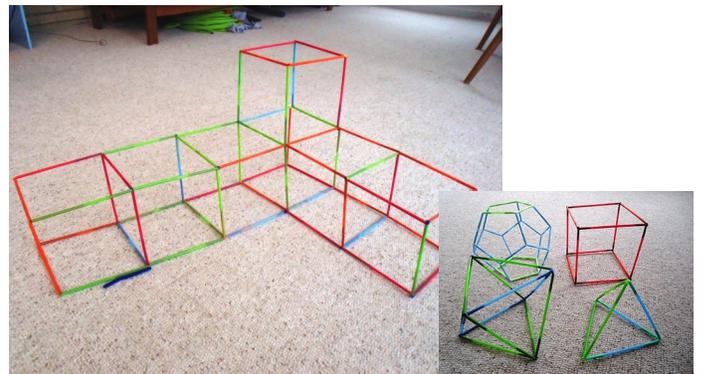
CRAFT - Paper Sculptures

- Provide assorted paper, scissors (Ages 3+), glue, tape, and art cart materials
- For younger children, you may want to cut strips of paper ahead of time.
- Allow children to work with materials freely at first, then, show them various ways to fold, circle, and curl paper that they may not have tried or seen before.
- Observe to see if they integrate these new ideas into their work!



CRAFT - [Straw & Pipe Cleaner Cube Castle \(3+\)](#)

- Pipe Cleaners, Straws
- See link above for details!
- Consider extending into additional 3D shapes for children who gravitate toward this activity.



ART - Revisiting Old Art

- Have children browse their collection of drawing/ paintings from past weeks/days and ask them if there is one they'd like to 'paint over.'
- Provide lots of white paint in addition to other colors.
- White paint will act almost as an 'eraser.'
- Children will be fascinated both in the idea of revisiting old work and using it for a new art experience as well as painting over something.
- "Can you tell which is the old paint and which is the new? How do you know? Are they mixing together?"



ART - Tape Collage

- Invite children to collage with masking tape and paint it along the way!
- Like all art/craft experiences, this is best done in small groups of 2-3 to allow for adequate supervision.



ART/CRAFT - Vertical Display

- You'll need a piece of cardboard for each child and assorted materials to manipulate and glue on top. (felt, craft foam, pipe cleaners, assorted decorations).
- Invite children to build anything they'd like on top of the cardboard. Then, display vertically! It's amazing how different it looks when you change the perspective!



ART - My Favorite Musician

- Provide lots of art materials to create an art piece dedicated to a favorite musician, (paint, brushes and paper, sculpting material such as play dough, tissue paper and magazines to make collages, etc).
- Ask children to think of a song or musician they adore and encourage them to paint, draw, and create an art piece that represents that artist.



CRAFT - Collage

- Provide magazines to cut out (precut for toddlers or just have them tear), glue, construction and tissue paper to tear into shapes and pieces, and art cart materials appropriate for your classroom.
- Have a photo or two of each child handy in case they'd like to add it to their collage.



ART/CRAFT - Ice Cream Social Decoration Project

- You'll need: newsprint, balloons, Styrofoam cups, glue, strips of newspring for paper mache, paint, additional art materials as needed.
- Create unique "Ice Cream Social" decorations through the avenue of paper mache! This as an evening event we invite families to August 3rd!



ART/CRAFT - Water Color 'Frisbee' Art

- Secure each child's paper plate to a Frisbee or cardboard circle to weigh it down so it will fly. Have each child scatter drops of water color or diluted tempera paint onto their plate. Fling around an outdoor space and encourage children to observe the changes after each throw.
- **SA Extension**—For school agers and older Leap students by having them turn their Frisbee art into a wind chime/ wind spinner. Do this by cutting the plate into a spiral, starting on the outside of the plate and cutting in a spiral into the middle. The plate will look like a spring. Tie a string to the middle and hang. Then invite children to add foil pieces, jingle bells, and anything else they'd like to add.



ART- Sandpaper Art

- Use sandpaper as a canvas for little ones creations! Gather sandpaper, colorful sidewalk chalk, cornstarch, food coloring, watercolor, and crayons.\
- Method 1: Mix equal parts cornstarch and water along with a few drops of food coloring. Paint the liquid chalk mixture onto the sandpaper!
- Method 2: Rub regular chalk over sandpaper!
- Method 3: Use a white crayon to draw a design. Have children paint over the crayon with water colors. Try each of these activities over the course of a week!



ART & CRAFT - Cardboard Print Making

- There are so many different types of cardboard packaging, many of which has very interesting designs - an awesome open-ended art stamping tool!
- Depending on which types of materials you find, many of them will make great train tracks!



ART - Wax Paper Painting

- Provide children with squeeze bottles filled with paint, a cookie sheet, and wax paper. Little ones will enjoy experimenting with how the wax paper and paint interact. Provide multiple sheets of wax paper and allow children to layer sheets on top of each other. (ie. They paint on the first layer, then add a sheet on top and paint on that layer as well.)



ART - Painting on Ice

- Freeze several pie tins with a layer of water at the bottom to make ice canvases.
- Then, provide paint in squeeze bottles and brushes. Guide children in squeezing blobs of paint on the ice, then move it around with the brush.
- You can stamp a piece of paper on top to make a print!
- Alternative - Freeze a thin layer of water in a sensory bin for a small group to paint on together or use as a center!



ART- Chalk and Cookie Cutters

- Provide chalk, construction paper, and cookie cutters.
- Allow children the opportunity to explore materials and decide how they would like to use the chalk in relation to the cookie cutters.



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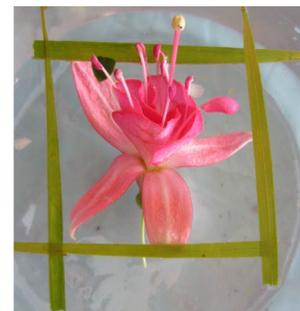
ART - Painting Nature

- Paper, paint, brushes, drawing utensils, outdoor easels and tables
- Set up an outdoor art studio and encourage students to find something outside they are inspired to draw or paint. (trees, sky, grass, garden, animals)
- Provide flat surfaces students can place in their lab if they wish to sit somewhere and draw.
- Try to provide a peaceful, serene art experience by encouraging students to focus on their piece and avoid bothering others.



ART - Floating Art

- Natural materials such as leaves, petals, twigs, grass, etc., containers of water for each child, camera
- Students will collect outdoor items that they believe may float in water. *Feel free to invite indoor items as well.
- Once they have their collection, provide them with a container of water and let them begin testing their objects to see which ones float.
- Encourage them to make designs and continue to keep making new ones.
- Take photos of their favorites.



ART - Round Robin Collaborative Art

- 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 can have the papers stay in the same spot and children can 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 & CRAFT - Oil & Water Painting

- You'll need eye droppers, paint, oil, paper, small cups/bowls, water, and a baking pan or sensory tub.
- Children will mix oil and paint together in small cups, then use droppers to drop drops into a baking pan/sensory tub with a layer of water on the bottom.
- Last, children will gently lay a sheet of paper on top and then take out to let dry, revealing a cool design!



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CRAFT - Nature Mobiles

- Collect outdoor items such as sticks and leaves to begin mobiles.
- Provide children ages 3+ with a fully stocked art cart of tissue paper, construction paper, yarn, pipe cleaners, felt, craft foam, beads, etc.
- Provide toddlers with tissue paper, construction paper, craft foam shapes, felt pieces, and glue to create.
- Give them ample time to create. Help toddlers attach their creations to the class mobile!



CRAFT - Open Ended Science Inspired Project (Ages 3+)

- Science books, paper, drawing and writing utensils
- Have children explore science books and find something they'd like to use for their art project.
- Let them know they can turn the subject into anything they'd like (adapt it to an outer space creature, change the coloring, add background/scenery to the object, write a story about it, etc. They can also simply draw it, which helps students notice details and characteristics.
- Encourage students to add captions and stories to their drawings.



CRAFT - Engineering Art

- Craft sticks, play dough/clay, tissue paper, foil, plastic wrap, glue, assorted art cart materials, paint
- Building is a 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!



CRAFT - [Make a Paper Plate Sun Dial](#) (Ages 4+)

- Make a paper plate sun dial using paper plates, straws, crayons/markers, push pins, and sharpened pencils. See procedure at the link below:



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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 - Bath Puff/Loofah Painting

- Provide bath puffs/loofahs and encourage children to stamp, swirl, make zig-zag lines, etc. Ask them how the paint looks on the paper compared to a regular brush mark. Show them a piece of paintbrush art work to spark the conversation.



ART - Draw, Trace, and Stencil

- Give children an option of crayons, colored pencils, or chalk. Also set out various items (these can even be toys) to trace as well as some stencils (plastic or home-made from cardboard).
- Sit with them and encourage them to explore all the different ways to use a stencil. (Trace inside, trace outside, only trace part of it then pick it up so see the marks)
- Also play with marks - showing them new ways to use the tools provided. Help them name their lines (straight line, zig-zag, spiral, squiggle, thick line, thin line, etc.).



ART - Carnival Flyers

- Paper, paint, crayons, assorted art cart materials
- Have children create flyers for Carnival Week to get fellow campers excited!
- For younger children, have them dictate any message they would like to add to their drawing/painting
- Encourage SA Campers to be persuasive and clever with their advertisements!



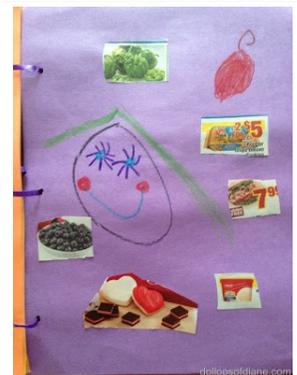
CRAFT - Bookmarks

- Use tablets to take full length photos of students pretending to hang from a rope.
- Print in B&W, have children cut out (guide younger children), and color with crayons.
- Add a piece of ribbon/yarn.



CRAFT - Making Menus

- Provide children with lots of grocery store ads, family friendly magazines, and other printed resources with food items to cut out.
- Invite children to make their own menu!
- Guide them in making a menu cover, then set them free in creating as many menu pages as they'd like.
- Bind together with yarn or ribbon.



ART - Ping Pong Art

- Cover an outdoor table in bulletin board paper or place on the ground. Or, place large sheets of paper in a sensory bin or two.
- Invite one child at a time to dip a ping pong ball in paint, then drop it in the bin or on the paper. They can push the ball around with their hands, a craft stick, or blow it around using a straw. Be sure to poke 2 holes about an inch from the top on both sides to prevent children from inhaling any paint.



ART- Leaf Art

Gather leaves from outside. Show children how to dip the leaf into paint and press it on the paper to create an imprint!

This can also be done with flowers, vegetables, and other natural objects from outside.



ART - Construction Painting

- This toddler favorite use vehicles to paint with!
- 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
- Children will drive the vehicles along the roads and through the tunnels, making a trail as they go.



ART - Paper Towel Tube Art

- Provide children with paper towel tube pieces and assorted paint to dip and stamp.
- Extend by bending tubes to make new shapes such as hearts, ovals, and flowers/suns.



ART & CRAFT - Sticky Paper Art

- Contact paper can easily be shaped into thematic shapes by first cutting a shape out of a piece of sturdy paper or posterboard, then covering with contact paper (sticky side up) and securing with tape on the back.
- Then, provide children with assorted decorative materials.

* Toddler teachers - avoid items that can be potential choking hazards. Stick to tissue paper/construction paper shapes, large pom poms, etc.



CRAFT– Yarn Chandelier (Ages 3+)

- You will need: Yarn, glue, corn starch, liquid starch, scissors, balloons, bowl for mixing
- Blow up your balloons. The size that you blow up your balloon to will be the size of the chandelier. Mix the glue (about half a bottle), with 1/2 cup of cornstarch, 1/4 cup liquid starch and water if needed to get to a thick by runny consistency. Dip the yarn in your mixture and wrap the balloon in yarn! Allow chandeliers 24 hours to dry. Then, pop the balloon!



CRAFT– Paper Snake Craft (Ages 3+)

- You will need: paper towel tube, paint, scissors, glue, construction paper cut in 1 inch wide strips, stapler (teacher use), googly eyes
- Glue the ends of two contrasting strips of construction paper together at a right angle. Fold the bottom strip over the top strip, making sure they remain perpendicular. Crease the fold. Continue criss-crossing bottom over the top, keeping the strips at right angles to each other. When you get to the end glue on another paper strip overlapping by 1 inch. Glue your paper strips to your snakes head! Add googly eyes.



ART– Expanding on an image

Cut images from a magazine or newspaper and glue them to paper. Challenge children to expand the picture using their imaginations. You can even use multiple cut-outs on one piece of paper to make it even more intriguing for campers.



CRAFT– Yarn Wrapped

- Help children create a shape/letter/number that is special to them out of cardboard or poster board and then cut them out.
- Wrap in yarn!



Additional Art & Craft Centers for Summer Campers

Each center provided on this page can be offered weekly throughout the summer.

ART– Outdoor Easel Art

Painting outdoors is the perfect opportunity for children to be inspired by nature! Take your paint, paper, and other art materials to the outdoor easel (or make one on the fence or on the sidewalk/grass using a folded piece of poster board (assuming it's not too windy)).



CRAFT– Jewelry Making/ Beading Center (3+)

Create a center that offers campers the opportunity to use assorted materials to make bracelets. Magic color sunlight pony beads that change color in the sun have been purchased for this project!

Encourage older campers to try a simple square knot bracelet . Tutorial [here!](#) (Ages 5+)



ART/CRAFT–

Have children help collect items to make nature paintbrushes, then use rubber bands or masking tape to secure.



ART/CRAFT– [Folded Surprise!](#) (3+)

This concept can be applied to lots of different drawing/painting projects. Simply fold the paper in half, then in half again (creating an accordion style fold). Children can decide what to paint/draw

Full instructions on folding [here.](#)

