

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.)

## Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Communities

### ART - Apple Prints

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



### 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 - 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!



## Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Communities

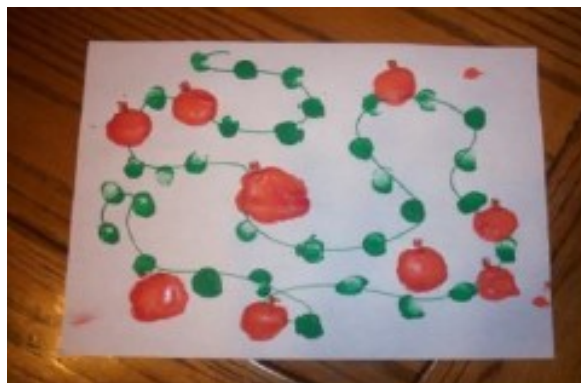
### CRAFT - Coffee Filter Apple Art

- 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.



### CRAFT - Pumpkin Patches

- Use the pumpkin shaped sponges and have the children make pumpkin prints on the white paper.
- Once dry, encourage 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.
- Invite them to 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

- Encourage 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.





## Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Communities

### CRAFT - Building Fences

- 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.



### 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.

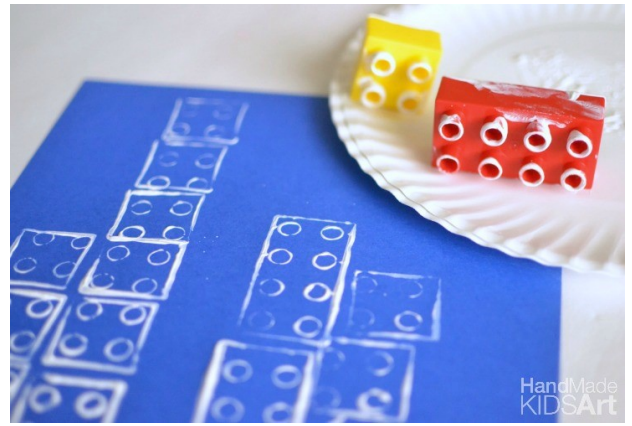
OPEN ART OPPORTUNITY- Once children have completed their "Safety Light" continue to provide construction paper for tearing and encourage little ones to create a "torn paper mosaic!"



# Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Communities

## ART– Lego Blueprints (All ages)

Stamp Legos/Duplos in paint and then on paper to make blueprints! (You can use white paint on blue paper/vise versa, or choose other colors based on your students' preferences.)



## ART —Stripe Collages

Ages 3+: Encourage your students to paint stripes (or whatever else they'd like), and cut their stripes into strips after they've dried. What can they build, collage, or create with their stripy strips?

Toddler: Encourage your students to paint a collaborative painting together! After their painting has dried, cut it into strips or pieces for them (or have them rip it themselves) and then glue their own collages.



## ART & CRAFT– Popsicle Stick Buildings

Encourage your students to glue popsicle sticks onto paper to make a building (or whatever else they'd like). After the popsicle sticks are dry, students can paint or color in their buildings!



## ART– Paper Towel Roll Sculptures

Encourage students to paint "blocks" (pieces of paper towel rolls cut into different sizes). Once the blocks are dry, students can then build—children can build and glue together their own sculptures/towers, or it can be a more fluid collaborative project that they work on throughout the day.



## Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Communities

### 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.





## Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Communities

### CRAFT– Garbage Shape Truck

Provide children with pre-cut shapes (toddlers), or have them cut their own (ages 3+). Encourage them to identify and glue their shapes onto their paper, and then add clean wrappers, pieces of newspapers or magazines, parts of small boxes, etc. onto their garbage truck



This is just an example—encourage children to place the shapes and materials wherever they'd like while they're creating their truck!

### 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



### 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 Guide - Unit 2: Communities

## CRAFT—Harvest Corn

- Invite your students to stamp some harvest corn using Duplo blocks! Set out brown, orange, yellow, and red paint, and encourage them to create their colorful corn!
- An alternate choice is to use q-tips or fingerprints to make colorful corn kernels.



## 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—Silly Turkey Tracks! (Ages 3+)

- 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!
- Encourage 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!



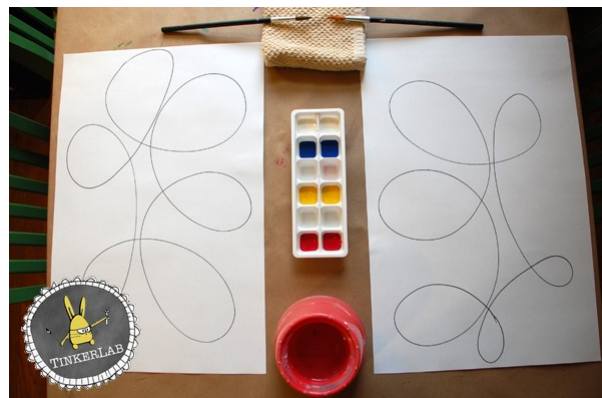


## Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Communities

### ART - 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!



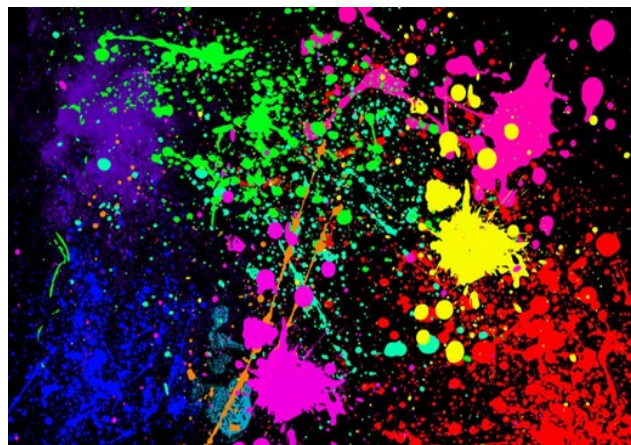
### ART - Upside Down Art

- 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 invite children just run back and forth from each side.



### ART - 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.



## Art & Craft Guide - Unit 2: Communities

### 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 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.

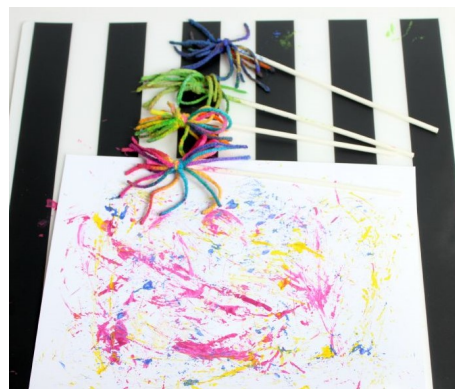


### ART- Yarn Paint Brushes

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!



### ART - 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.

