

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

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 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.

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- Painting with Watercolors, glue, and salt.

Use glue, salt, and watercolor. The glue makes the colors rise from the paper and the salt creates a 'starburst' look.

Provide Elmer's Blue School Gel for children to "draw" all over a piece of thick water color paper with it. Let the glue dry, the longer it dries, the more "3D" the painting will appear. Once the glue is dry, paint over the picture and the glue using liquid watercolors. While the watercolors are still wet, sprinkle with salt

As the unit progresses, this piece can later be used for an animal habitat scene.; perhaps for pet fish,



CRAFT- Pet Homes

Use paper plates, cups, bowls, or boxes as raw materials to create pet homes. The prep work involved is dependent upon your age group. Toddlers may love a simple box or cup with an archway cut out to paint and put toy pets inside. Older friends may prefer to take these materials and create themselves!



ART - Yarn Painting

You'll need a piece of poster board for each child, an assortment of yarn pieces, glue, and paint. Invite children to dip yarn in glue and arrange on their poster board as they wish. Then, once dry, provide paint.

*Add a thematic touch by placing photos or an animal read aloud or an animal slideshow of photos (Ages 3+) nearby for animal inspiration!



ART- Pompom/felt painting

Attach pompoms (or large chunks of felt or sponge for toddlers - big enough to not fit through a choke tube) to clothespins and invite children to paint and create freely. Place photos of pets in this creative area for inspiration!



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ART– Pet Painting

Provide children with black construction paper, white paint, and invite them to choose toy animals to use for painting. Invite children to dip the animals in the paint and press their paws on the paper.



CRAFT– What Pet should I Get?

After reading “What Pet Should I Get?” by Dr. Seuss (a great thematic story for “Pet’s” week AND the Read Across America book for this year) invite children to create their own pet.

Engage children in conversation about their pets while they are working. “What sound does your pet make?” “Do you have a pet at home like this one?” “Why did you choose this pet?”



ART– Feather Painting

Provide children with paint, construction paper, and feathers. Show children how to dip the feather in paint and then drag it around their paper.



CRAFT– Pet Rocks

Provide children with large rocks, paint, a google eyes (3+ only) or eye stickers.

Invite children to create their own pet rock. What is his/her name? What does she like to eat? Write down their answers, and display them alongside their art!

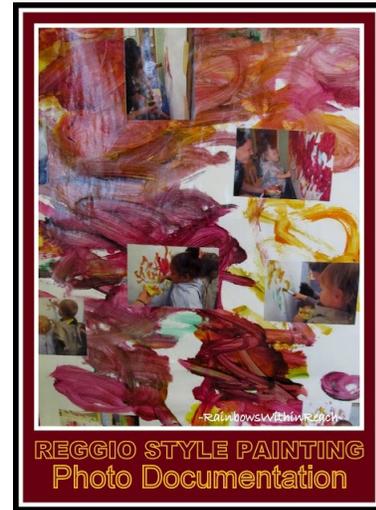


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ART- Painting and Photos

This is such a simple, but powerful way of combining open-ended art with technology. While children are working on a painting, take photos of them hard at work. Then, invite them to glue the photos onto their painting afterwards and display with an explanation for parents and children to see.

Add a thematic touch by inviting children to use farm animals as painting tools.



CRAFT - Let's make a barn together.

Invite your classroom to work together to create a barnyard throughout the week. Use upcycled materials—such as boxes, cardboard, cereal boxes, and paper scraps. Children may ask for your help in cutting out the shape of their preferred animal or may ask you for ideas on what to create. Refer them to visual supports in books and photos to guide decisions. Someone may want to make the barn, while someone else may want to make a tractor. All the pieces can find a spot on a classroom bulletin board or poster board to display later.



CRAFT- Paper Towel Tube Farm Animals (Ages 3+)

Cut paper towel tubes ahead of time so that each child has one or two to design. Provide paper, tissue paper, paint, pipe cleaners, bingo dabbers, ping pong balls, craft foam, feathers, and anything else that would be fun to create an animal with.



ART- Straw Paintbrushes

Create paintbrushes using straw, and invite children to dip them in paint and brush them on the paper.



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CRAFT– Egg Carton Sea Animals

Cut around the “cups” in an egg carton. Invite children to paint and decorate their cup to resemble a sea animal. Display pictures for inspiration.

For a more open ended experience, try out the egg carton sea monster craft found [here](#).



CRAFT & then ART– Spiny Pufferfish Painting

Provide children with a sensory ball, black paper, and paint. Help children to create a spiny pufferfish painting and provide photos for inspiration.

As soon as children are done making their pufferfish, invite them to take part in an open art experience by dipping the ball in paint and either bouncing it on a large sheet of bulleting board paper or pressing it to a sheet of paper.



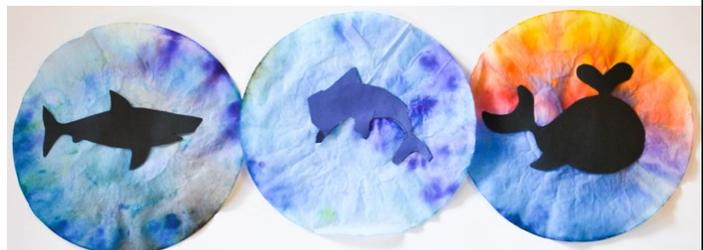
ART– Seashell Stamping

Provide children with large seashells and invite them to dip them in paint and press them to the paper.



ART– Water Animal Sun catchers

Cut out a few outlines of water animals and fix to a coffee filter for each child with a piece of masking tape. Provide them with open art materials, and water colors. When they are finished, peel the outline off of the coffee filter to reveal a water animal masterpiece.



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CRAFT- Leaves and Trees

This Reggio Emilio blog inspired an idea - What if we collected branches from outside and attached tissue paper or painted coffee filters to them to create trees for birds or other forest animals to live in?

<http://prekandksharing.blogspot.com/2013/03/a-reggio-approach-in-early-childhood.html>



ART - I spy!

Give each child a chance to make an “I spy” piece of art by providing a 1/2 or 1/4 piece of poster board, some construction paper to rip into strips, glue/tape, and magazines or newspaper with animals to cut out.

Invite children to create freely, hiding the animals within their jungle/forest to find later with a magnifying glass!



ART- Sponge Painting

Provide an assortment of paper, paint colors, and sponges (cut in different shapes) to create! A simple pile of assorted construction paper shapes may also inspire some animal themed art - but its more fun to sit back and just see what children decide to do with them.

Construction paper shape ideas: orange triangles, black&white strips, circles for eyes and noses, wing shapes, long blue/gray curves (elephant trunks).



CRAFT- Fork Animals (Ages 3+)

Provide children with a cut out circle/oval/rectangle/triangle as a starter (or help them draw or paint one themselves).

Show children how to use a fork to create a “hair effect” by stamping using the fork. Invite them to create openly and freely to design an animal of their choice using this fork painting technique.



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ART- Stomp Painting

Lay large sheets of bulletin board paper on the ground. Fix the paper to the ground using masking or painters tape to reduce the opportunity of slipping. *Remove the tape as soon as the activity is over. * Invite small groups of children at a time to remove their shoes and socks and stomp like a dinosaur as they paint. Make lots of animal noises, sing songs, and have fun as you create this wild animal stomping masterpiece.



CRAFT - Paint and Sculpt Foil (Ages 3+)

Foil is such a dynamic material for open-ended art. Invite children to paint as they wish and then sculpt into their favorite animal(s)! Ripping, crumpling, un-crumpling, rolling, and even cutting foil with scissors all offer great lessons in material exploration while building fine motor muscles.



ART- What can my hand be?

Handprints (and arm prints) are uniquely special to each child. How can we use this to encourage artistic expression? Invite children to make a print or trace (or have you trace) their hand/arm and cut it out. Look at the cut out or print together and ask - "What can we make with this?" Guide the child in the creation process as needed.



Craft - Feed the wild animals!

Give each child an empty tissue box and a fully stocked art cart (or a container with lots of compartments with art materials on a table top). Invite little ones to decorate their box to create an animal that they can feed! Let children share their ideas and then guide them in making their idea come to life.



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Art- Dinosaur Creations Open Art

Provide each child with a dinosaur starter piece (or a template for them to trace and cut themselves) Offer lots of open art materials (scraps of paper, craft foam shapes, paint, crayons, and pipe cleaners are all great options for this activity) Invite them to create freely to create a dinosaur scene.

The picture on the right is for reference - every child's art should be uniquely different!



Craft- Salt Dough Dinosaur Fossils

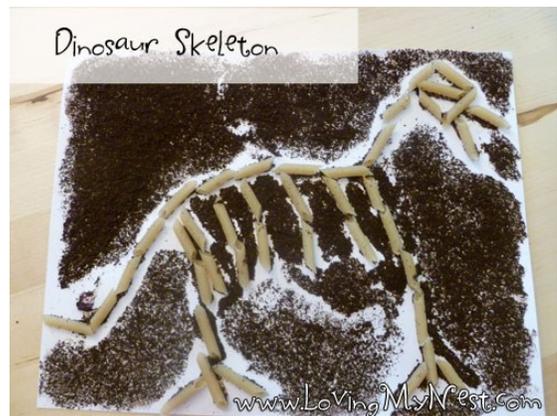
Create your favorite batch of salt dough, and provide dinosaur toys. Encourage the creation of dinosaur fossils! Then, invite your fossils time to dry or bake them in the oven at 200 for 2-3 hours. When the fossils are dry, give children the opportunity to paint their fossils.



CRAFT - Dinosaur Skeleton (Ages 3+)

You'll need dry penne pasta, white paper, spray bottles with diluted black paint or sponges with black paint

Set out assorted books and photos of dinosaur skeletons for inspiration as students glue on their pasta pieces to create their dino skeleton. Let students know they can draw their design first, then glue the pieces on top. Once dry, invite children to sponge or spray on black paint to make the "dirt" so it appears as though the bones were found during an archeological dig!



Art- Dinosaur Footprint Paintings

Provide children with dinosaur toys, various colors of paint, and sheets of paper. A great way to do this activity is to cover the table in bulletin board paper. Once children are done making their masterpiece that you can hang up or place in their assessment portfolio, they can continue to explore artistically all day long by painting right on the bulletin board paper. This also makes for easy clean up!



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Chinese New Year 2016 - Year of the Monkey!

Monday, February 8th is the Chinese New Year Celebration! It celebrates the earth coming back to life and the beginning of the growing cycle, also known as the Spring Festival. For Chinese people all over, the Lunar New Year is *the* celebration of the year, a time for happy reunions, family and friends, rich in colorful traditions and customs. This year is also the year of the monkey! Invite children to create freely after discussing all of the symbols important to this day.



ART OR CRAFT - Valentines

Consider your age group and their interests and provide a few choices for valentine making. Your musicians may be drawn to making a [paper plate heart shaker](#), while some may adore the idea of incorporating sign language into their gift making. Finally, there are always those who just love to create freely and add glitter and gems to everything. Plan so that everyone gets to choose something that makes them excited!

*Toddler teachers, please replace glitter and gems with non-chokable materials.



CRAFT- Valentine Stationary

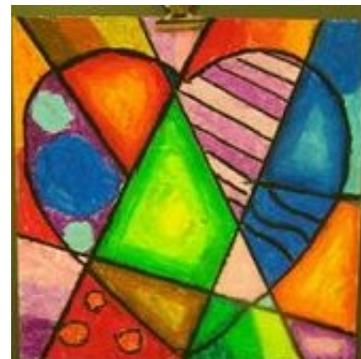
Provide paper, colorful chalk/crayons, cookies cutters or stencils to trace, heart templates to make negative hearts, etc. These simple ideas are just the beginning - let your creativity flow and see where it goes.



Artist Inspired Valentines

The heart is symbol that everyone understands. Even our littlest friends have an idea that this symbol has meaning embedded in kindness and love. Add a twist to this familiar symbol by incorporating an artist (or artists) study to the art experience. The photo to the right is an example of a Picasso inspired heart. This can be created by using painters tape to create the sections for children to freely paint and pattern.

Check out the Featured Artists Guide [here](#) to get your planning started!



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ART- Squeeze Bottle Art

So many of the things we do might just look like ‘painting,’ but we know children interact with these materials in completely different ways depending on their developmental level. With this activity, children explore the connection between the speed and thickness that the paint comes out, with the pressure they put on the bottle.

*At an early age, these experiments are at random, but the more they explore, the more you will notice their focus, control, planning, and execution.



ART- Upside Down Art

Tape paper under a table and invite children to draw with crayons (either individually or with a small group on bulletin board paper) After, flip the paper on to the floor and continue working right side up.

Older children can add to their piece by decorating with sequins, feathers, tissue paper, etc.



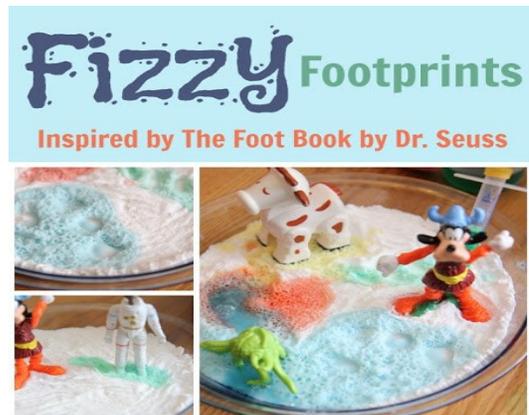
ART - Fizzy Footprints

The foot book is all about feet! First, go on a hunt for toys with feet around the room.

Then, set out cups of vinegar each dyed with a different color of food coloring and a sensory bin, pans or several plates with a thin layer of baking soda.

Stick toys in baking soda so that their feet are covered.

Use droppers to suck up vinegar mixture and squeeze onto their feet.



ART- Inkblots

Provide each child with a large sheet of construction paper. Have them pour/brush/squeeze a small amount of paint on one side of the paper. Show them how to fold the construction paper and rub the two sides together to create a print.

When they peel the sides apart ask them what they see. Dictate their response on their paper.



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3D SCULPTURE - Small World Seuss

Inspire children to choose scenes out of Seuss books to recreate in shoe boxes, sensory bins, and on upcycled cardboard surfaces.

Provide assorted materials and introduce some techniques as they play (crinkling paper to make accordions, combining shapes to make interesting structures, linking pipe cleaners, etc).

Give students the option of working on their own, with a friend, or a small group off friends.



CRAFT - Cats in Hats

Ahead of time, take photos of children's faces. Depending on ability, encourage child to cut out their face and glue it onto paper. (Toddlers will need this cut for them, but they are capable of gluing)

Then, draw, paint, or build a fun hat on top!

Please don't limit children to what you see in the photo example! Let them choose how to create their hat.



ART - Installation Art (Ages 3+)

After reading "The Cat in the Hat," work in small groups to 'stack' things up in fun, silly ways on a friend who is laying down.

Take a photo, then switch friends and play all over again!

Later, print the photos and use them for an art project of their choosing. (they can add a story, create a picture frame to go around it, etc.)



CRAFT - Puppets! (Ages 3+)

Using craft sticks, felt, glue, and assorted art materials of your choice, challenge friends to make some assorted Seuss puppets.

Ideas: Green eggs and ham with craft sticks and felt, Thing 1 & Thing 2, Cat in the Hat, Wocket.

Older friends can add buttons, pom poms, or other smaller decorative material to create.

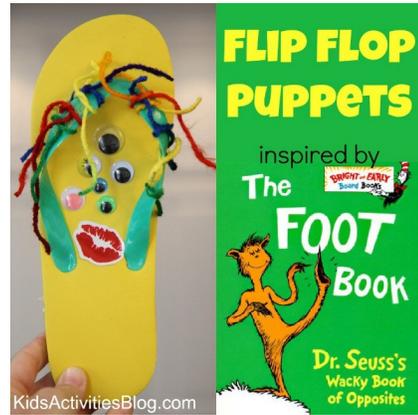
Invite them to come up with additional crafty ideas!



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CRAFT - Foot Book Puppets (All Ages)

Inspire children by reading *The Foot Book* first, then follow up with this activity - inviting children to create their own foot/flip flop/shoe puppet using a construction paper foot tracing and a fully stocked art cart.



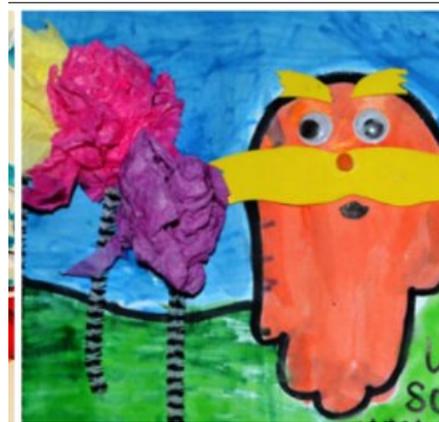
ART - Creating Seuss with Nature (All Ages)

Read a Seuss book of your choice just before going outdoors for a nature walk. Let children know that they'll be collecting things in nature to make some Seuss Art based on the book you just read. Children may want to recreate a favorite character or scene in the book.



CRAFT - Tissue Paper Truffulas Art

Crumpled tissue paper and pipe cleaners are all you need to make a collage full of Truffula Trees. Invite children to make their own forests and perhaps they'll even want to add the Lorax.



CRAFT- Seuss Calendar Project (Ages 4+)

(This could take a few weeks)

Check out the link [HERE](#) for an example of a calendar project based on many of the works of Seuss. Children can create one piece/month at a time with the end goal of including all the months of the year with your guidance! This is a great way to show children the concept of working towards a final project goal while building math and time concept skills along the way!



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ART - Beautiful Blends (All Ages)

You'll need: Coffee filters/paper towels, spray bottles of water, markers (bingo dabbers for toddlers). Draw on the filters/paper towels with markers. (Arms reach supervision for toddlers in small groups). Spray water on the coffee filter/paper towel and watch the colors run. Crumple the filter/paper towel to blend the colors. Straighten the filter/paper towel, let dry, and glue onto a piece of construction paper. What can it be? Encourage them to add art cart materials as they wish.



ART- Q-Tips and Water Colors (Ages 3+)

Provide children with q-tips and water colors. Show them how to dip the q-tip in water, then in the water color, and then finally paint on the paper.



ART- Tape Resist Painting

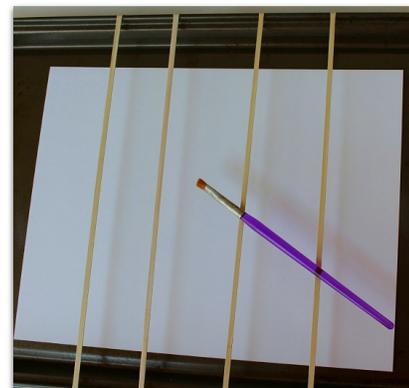
Invite children to place strips of masking tape on a sheet of paper. Then, show them how to brush overtop of their tape and all over the paper. Once this is done, let the paint dry and then show children how to peel the tape off to reveal their artwork.



ART- Rubber Band Resistance Art (3+)

You will need: a cookie sheet, large rubber bands, paint, and paper.

Stretch the rubber bands around the cookie sheet (as pictured) and invite children to paint the rubber bands. Place a piece of paper underneath the rubber bands and show children how to pull them back and release to make a picture.



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ART- Rolling Art

Give each child an opportunity to choose what goes into their rolling art project. Start with a box top, paper of their choice, and a couple squirts of paint. Traditionally, we've suggested golf balls or whiffle balls to roll in the box, but perhaps they'd like to add a toy animal too!

Remind children that they can keep adding to the piece once they are finished rolling it in the box. Maybe they'd like to keep brushing it on a table top or vertical easel surface?



Art- Water, paper/tissue paper art

There are so many opportunities to explore with tissue or crepe paper pieces, water, and white construction paper. Children are always amazed at how water makes paper stick!

*You can add paintbrushes, eye droppers, or spray bottles to challenge assorted fine motor skills.

Then, the fun part! Invite children to peel the pieces off!

For Ages 3+, add vinegar to the water to help the colorful paper bleed more colorfully.



ART - Touch Painting

Create a touch painting box with a cardboard box and a couple pieces of felt. Children will rely on their sense of touch alone to create open-ended art. Some may prefer paintbrushes while others will want to use their fingers. Regardless of preference, children will explore painting through the sense of touch while they can not see what they are creating!

*You can create two doors (one on each end) for children to create in pairs. Incorporate bubble wrap, strips of paper, and other materials inside the box as the activity involves over the course of the week!



ART- Straw Blowing Art

Have children place many splatters of slightly diluted paint on a piece of construction paper (they can use eye droppers, drop by paintbrush, etc.) Then, show little ones how to blow through a straw to push the paint around and create different effects. Poke two holes about an inch from the top of the straw on each side to prevent paint inhalation. Offer other art cart materials to make animals of their choice with their blow painting!

