

Creative Art

- Is a way of learning
- Children use most and sometimes all of their senses during art experiences.
- Children are learning the use of art media, so experimentation is often more important to them than what they actually make. It's the process not the product.
- Children acquire academic skills through art like language and literacy, math and science concepts, and even social studies.

Tips for Success with Creative Art Activities

- You will have more success in small groups of children. Children will be more relaxed and get more deeply involved.
- Provide adult supervision to prevent harmful situations.
- Allow child to explore and to choose to participate. Invite all children to participate, but get them the option to refuse.
- Give them time. Repeat the activity the next day if time runs out and interest is still shown.
- Allow them to repeat the activity if needed. Example painting, ask a child "Do you want to paint again?"

Drawing Dough:

2/3 cup of each water, flour, and salt

Tempera paint of various colors

Squeeze bottles (look at dollar stores or use recycled ketchup, mustard, or glue bottles)

In a bowl mix together water, flour, and salt. Divide the dough into different bowls depending on the number of colors being created. Add a few drops of tempera paint into each bowl. Pour the dough into squeeze bottles. Use thick construction paper or card stock for designs. Leave flat to dry.

Painting with Water:

Various sizes of brushes

Items to hold water (buckets, bowls, cups, pans, containers)

Water

Allow children to paint outside walls, sidewalks, tree trunks, rocks, easels, chalk boards, etc. Could also add liquid water colors or food coloring to water.

Ice Collages:

Freezing cold weather (or a freezer)

Items collected from nature

String, yarn or wire

Water

Small pitcher

Disposable pie tins

Let children collect items from a nature walk outside. Allow children to place their items in pie tins, and then with a small pitcher of water allow the child to pour water into the pie tin. Take them outside (or in freezer) and place them where children can observe from indoors if possible. When frozen place string through pie tin and hang outside on a tree or fence. During process ask simple questions, what will happen.

The Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care: 2nd edition: Volume 2: Routines and Experiences. Dodge, Diane Trister, Rudick, Sherrie, and Colker, Laura J. Teaching Strategies, Inc. 2009.

Simple Steps: Developmental Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Two-Year-Olds. Miller, Karen. Gryphon House, Inc.

Family Fun 123. September Issue 2007.