



Music, movement, drama, and visual arts encourage children to express themselves in fun and unique ways.

Through the arts, children discover how to communicate with words, art, music and play. When children participate in the creative arts, it helps them use creativity and imagination in other areas of learning.

In this domain your child will develop skills in these specific areas:

Experimenting and participating in the Creative Arts: Encouraging children to experiment and participate in the creative arts will help them discover new ways to communicate with the world around them.

CREATIVE ARTS

BOOKS

BABIES & TODDLERS

Barnyard Dance by Sandra Boynton

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Abdreae

Rap A Tap Tap by Leo and Diane Dillon

Mouse Paint by Ellen Walsh*

Building a House by Byron Barton

PRESCHOOLERS

Ben's Trumpet by Rachel Isadora

The Art Lesson by Tomie DePaola*

David's Drawings by Cathryn Falwell*

Dog Loves Drawing by Louise Yates

Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney

Mama Don't Allow by Thacher Hurd

The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse by Eric Carle*

Bea at Ballet by Rachel Isadora

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building by Christy Hale

Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin by Lloyd Moss

* Available in Spanish

All books available through the Rhode Island Library system

Music, Music Everywhere!

Young children increasingly begin to develop an appreciation of music and songs.

ACTIVITIES



BABIES

Babies begin communicating using sound as soon as they are born! Familiar sounds are comforting to babies, like mommy humming or singing a song, or a CD or music player with the same few songs repeating.

Take opportunities to sing to or play music for your child: in the tub, during meal times, playtime, and bedtimes. Encourage your baby to move arms and legs or babble along to the tune.



TODDLERS

Toddlers use music for comfort and fun. They enjoy singing a favorite song or listening to a song before bedtime. Encourage your toddler to clap, dance, hum, or sing along with you. Leave out a word or two and encourage your child to fill in the missing words to the song.

Pretend you are part of a marching band. Lead the parade and have your child lead or follow along behind you. Make your own instruments or pretend to play in your very own band. Add some dance moves as you play.



PRESCHOOLERS

Preschoolers enjoy making music for others. They are better able to use their bodies to perform music and can tap a drum and march at the same time while listening to songs they know. Encourage your preschooler to create made up songs and play or sing them for the family. You can sing and make music together. Think about props you can use to make music and to put on a show, like dress up clothes, a water bottle for a microphone, or a rug as a stage.

CREATIVE ARTS

Additional Domains:



TIPS

- Share your favorite music with your child, and play different kinds of music too to find out what your child likes. Music and dance have physical benefits and help children learn rhythm, language, listening skills, mathematics and more.
- Take a look at items in your kitchen. What could you use for a musical instrument? Wooden spoons and plastic bowls make wonderful noisemakers. Play with the different sounds by using different sized bowls or cups as drums and plastic or wood spoons. Depending on what you use, how does the sound change?
- You can also use other items around the house like a tissue box and rubber bands to make a guitar or a coffee can with a lid could be used as a drum.

REFLECTIONS

- Are there types of new music you can listen to together? What songs do you and your child enjoy together? Make a list on the back of this card.

Building and Creating

Young children enjoy participating in creative arts by using different materials to build and create.

ACTIVITIES



BABIES

Babies enjoy touching, feeling, and looking at materials that come in different textures and colors. They like things that are soft, bumpy, crinkly, or squishy. They also like to look at things that are brightly colored or sparkling. You can use old water bottles and fill them with food coloring, glitter and buttons. Glue the cap on and let your baby look at the colors and movement. Show your baby colorful, contrasting pictures. You can also provide opportunities for your baby to feel a variety of textures, for example, a soft feather or fine sandpaper.



TODDLERS

Toddlers love to build their own artistic creations. They enjoy using simple materials to build and create, like scrap paper to tear, finger paints, or play dough. Together, you can build with clay or play dough. You can be creative and add food coloring, vanilla extract or other safe scents. You can also find things around your home that can be used as simple tools. For example, plastic cookie cutters, spoons, or a small rolling pin.



PRESCHOOLERS

Preschoolers love to build structures. This kind of construction can last over several days. Preschoolers may even build something as tall as they are or big enough to climb inside. Take a look in your recycle bin to see what other containers and boxes your child could use to create with, like milk jugs, plastic cups, paper towels rolls, or cardboard boxes. In addition, you can use other household items like craft sticks, paper towel rolls, wood scraps, tape and clay, or items from outside like leaves and twigs. Allow your child to build something over several days, and maybe even take a day or two to paint or decorate.

CREATIVE ARTS

Additional Domains:



TIPS

- Using art materials to build and create can sometimes get messy. Make sure your child wears something that can get messy, put newspaper or tablecloth down, and do the activities by a sink or keep paper towels close by. If possible, choose one space in your house where art activities happen.
- If possible, make a space in your home where you can save the structure your child creates, so it can be continued at another time.
Clay Recipe—What you Need:
 - 2 cups Baking Soda
 - 1 cup corn starch
 - 1-1/4 cups cold water (can add food coloring to color clay)Store in a plastic container or bag for up to one week.
When you are done creating, allow the clay to dry and have your child color or paint the creation.

REFLECTIONS

- Do you have a special place for creating and building? If not, what can you use to create one? This can be as simple as a tablecloth put on one end of the dining room table and a box to hold supplies.

Appreciating Art

Young children develop an appreciation for the creative arts.

ACTIVITIES



BABIES

Babies enjoy looking at interesting patterns and colors as well as pictures and art. Provide pictures for your baby to look at—whether they are bright pictures from a board book or paintings at a local museum. You can also tear pictures from a magazine and tape them to the wall, ceiling or the side of a shelf—wherever your baby can see them.



TODDLERS

Toddlers enjoy looking at and sharing art they have made. It's important to show your appreciation of art by praising your toddlers efforts. Look at the art your child has made and use words to describe it. For example, describe the colors, shades, textures or shapes. Save room on a wall, the refrigerator or a window where you can hang the art for the family to enjoy.



PRESCHOOLERS

Preschoolers are developing their own sense of appreciation for the arts. This includes their favorite colors, art materials and types of pictures and art to look at. They are getting better at expressing what they like or don't like. Encourage your child to share a favorite picture or piece of art and describe what is special about it. If it is a piece of artwork, your child has created write down the description and encourage your child to think of a title. Create a family museum that includes art done by each family member. Find a special place to display the art. Take time to describe and appreciate each other's creations.

CREATIVE ARTS

Additional Domains:



TIPS

- Developing an appreciation for the creative arts also includes listening to, moving to and creating a variety of music; participating in a plays; and stopping to enjoy a sculpture in the park or mural on a building.
- Create an Art Box
Take a box, laundry basket or bin and collect materials from around your house that your child might use for art exploration. Make sure you include a tablecloth for messy projects. Here are a few ideas to get started:
 - For babies – Finger paints, paint brushes, shaving cream, plastic bowls, large crayons, old cards, felt, paper towel rolls, crayons
 - For toddlers – colored chalk, glue sticks, paper, stamp pads, bingo markers, cloth scraps, safety scissors, water colors
 - For preschoolers – colored pencils, rulers, yarn, cotton balls, craft sticks

REFLECTIONS

- What types of art do you like? What are the opportunities for you and your family to enjoy the arts in your community?