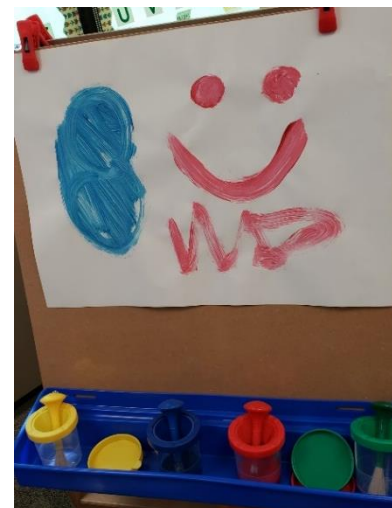


# Art

Art activities for young children encourage the development of a variety of skills. First, using art materials allows children to practice important fine motor skills, which are necessary in later challenges, such as learning to write and being successful in many self-help skills. Second, art allows children to experiment with shapes, lines, space, and the combinations of colors; in this way, art is like science and math. Third, art allows children to develop their own creative expression by being able to use materials in a process that they control and make a product only they could have created.

The benefits children receive from art experiences will depend on how art is provided to them- the time children have to use the materials, the variety of materials they can use, the restriction or freedom children experience in their use of materials, and the extent to which they can experiment or create following their own ideas. The benefits children receive from art also depend on staff involvement while children use these materials. When staff show interest in children's art, it gives them the messages that their work is valued and meaningful. In addition, staff can introduce vocabulary, discuss shapes or the number of colors a child uses, as well as add information and ask questions about children's art experiences to extend their learning opportunities.

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**TN ELDS: Creative Arts (page 26):** *Creative arts provide children with a way to express their feelings, ideas, and interests in ways that are comfortable and fun.*

**Head Start ELOF Guiding Principles:** *Areas of development are integrated, and children learn many concepts and skills at the same time.*

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**3.2 Some individual expression with art materials is observed as children use art materials, or observed in the display (ex: children allowed to do free drawing; paints at easel for children to use in own way; play dough used without cookie cutters).**

**5.1 At least 1 material from each category is accessible for 1 hour during the observation.**

**\*Notes for Clarification (ECERS-3 page 48)** Categories of art are **(1) drawing materials**, such as crayons, nontoxic watercolor markers, pencils, chalk; **(2) paints, such as tempera, watercolor sets, finger paint**; **(3) materials to create three-dimensional objects**, such as play dough, wood scraps, clay, boxes; **(4) collage materials**, such as cloth scraps, yarn, colorful or textured paper scraps; **(5) tools**, such as scissors, tape, hole punches, rulers, stencils, stamps with pads. All materials must be accompanied by paper, as needed, or another surface for use when carrying out artwork.

### **1) Drawing materials**

- markers
- crayons
- color pencils

### **2) Painting**

- finger paint
- tempera paint
- water color paint

### **3) Three-dimensional objects**

- play dough
- wood sticks
- loose parts

### **4) Collage materials**

- collage materials in the yellow tray
- paper and glue

### **5) Tools**

- scissors
- stencils
- stamps with ink pads



### **Item 5. Child-related display**

7.2 Three-dimensional child-created work is displayed in addition to flat work)