



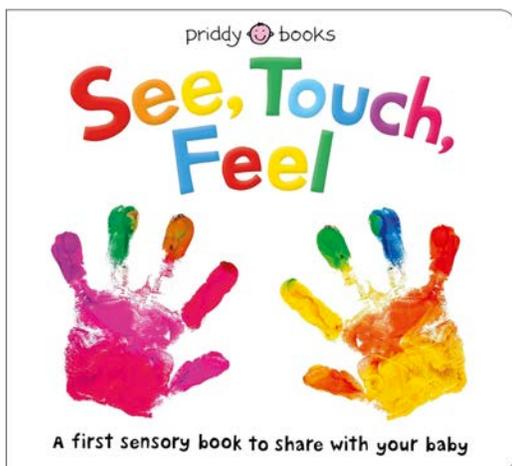
Art (S.T.E.A.M.)



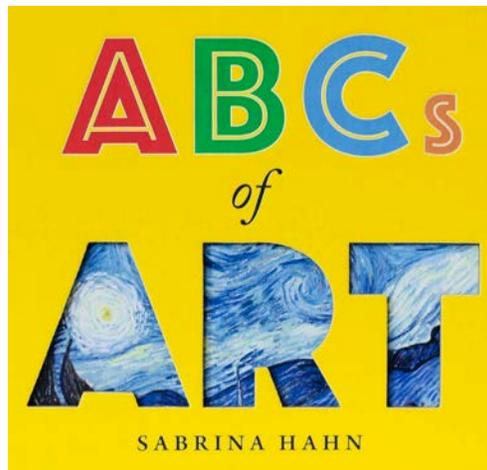
Art

Participating in artistic activities cultivates infants' self-expression and emotional intelligence. Through finger painting, playing with musical toys, and exploring textures, infants learn to communicate ideas, explore their emotions, and appreciate different sensations. These activities foster fundamental concepts of creativity, empathy, and early cultural understanding.

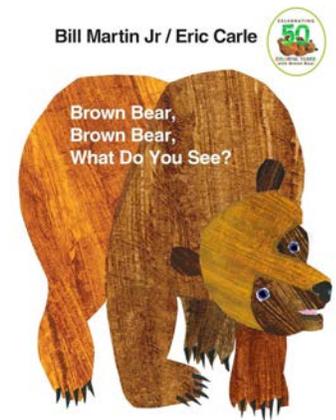
Books We Love That Support Art Concepts:



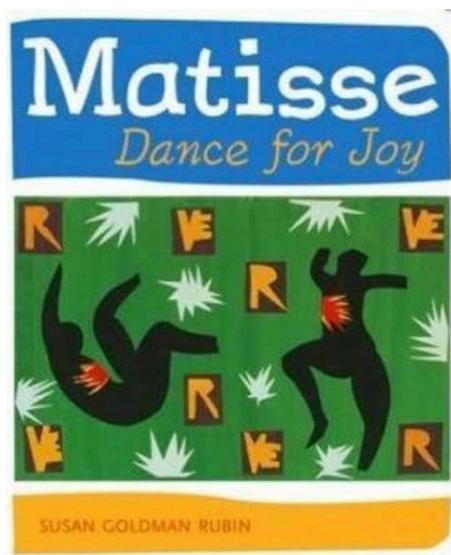
See, Touch, Feel,
by Roger Priddy



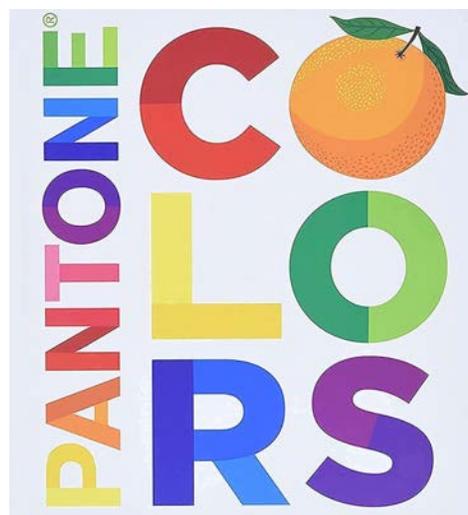
ABC's of Art
by Sabrina Hahn



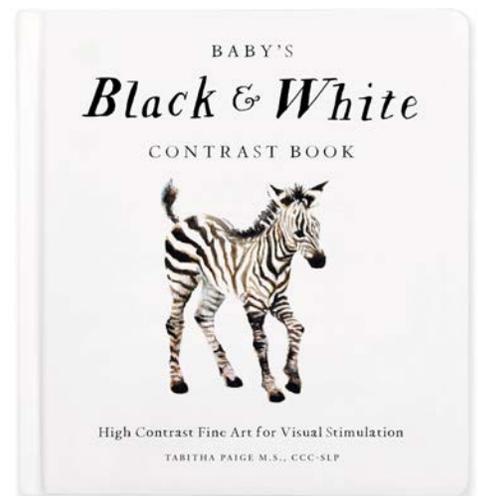
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
by Bill Martin Jr.



Matisse, Dance for Joy,
by Susan Goldman Rubin



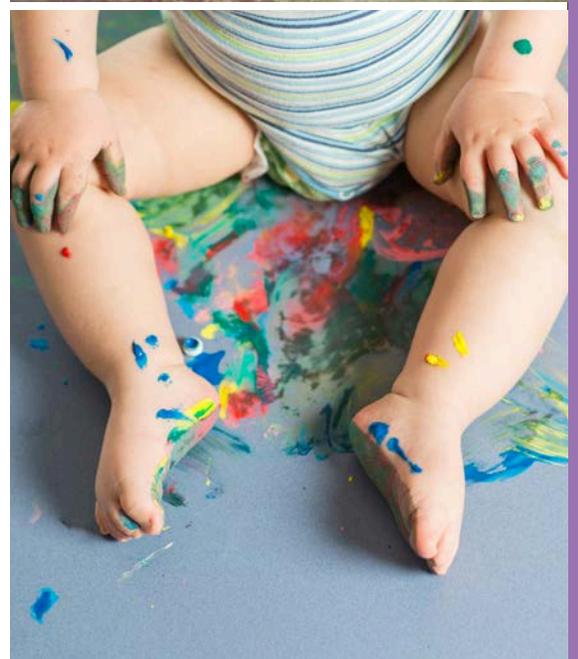
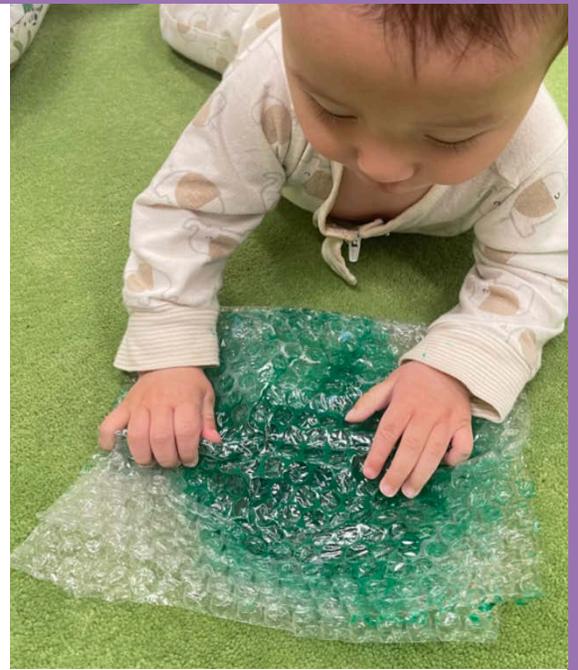
Pantone Colors,
by Pantone



Black & White Contrast Book,
by Tabitha Paige

20 Materials to Support Art Exploration

1. Finger Paints
2. Non-Toxic Chunky Crayons
3. Large Paintbrushes
4. Sensory Balls
5. Clay or Play Dough
6. Texture Mats
7. Colorful Ribbons
8. Edible Finger Paint
9. Stamps with Soft Handles
10. Large Paper Sheets
11. Colorful Sponges
12. Bells & Instruments
13. Scarves & Ribbons
14. Safe Art Smocks
15. DIY Sensory Bottles
16. Soft Fabric Scraps
17. Paper Tubes
18. Large Foam Shapes
19. Felt Boards
20. Textured Paper





Mess-Free Paint Exploration

MATERIALS

- Large Ziplock bag
- Non-toxic, washable paint (multiple colors)
- Tape (optional, for sealing and also keeping it placed down).
- Soft, clean play area or highchair for the baby

DIRECTIONS

- Add two-three colors of paint inside the bag and seal the Ziplock bag tightly. If needed, use tape to ensure there are no leaks.
- Tape the bag down on a soft, clean surface or highchair where babies can easily reach and interact with them.
- Allow babies to explore the bag independently, encouraging them to use their hands to press, squish, and move the paint around.
- Talk about the colors and patterns they're creating, describing the sensations and changes as they manipulate the paint.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Color Exploration:** Interacting with different paint colors helps babies explore and understand basic color concepts, including color mixing and differentiation.
- **Texture and Sensation:** The tactile experience of pressing and squishing paint through the bag introduces babies to the concept of texture and how different materials feel.
- **Visual Effects:** Observing how the paint spreads and mixes within the bag teaches babies about visual effects and the impact of their actions on the artwork.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Develop fine motor skills as babies use their hands to press and squish the paint, improving their hand strength and dexterity.



Sensory Sticks

MATERIALS

- Popsicle sticks
- Various textured materials (e.g., ribbon, sandpaper, bubble wrap, felt, cotton balls)
- Glue: A glue gun would be strongest adhesive. Other alternatives include school glue or tape.
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS

- Cut the textured materials into small, manageable pieces that fit the length of the popsicle sticks.
- Apply glue to one side of each popsicle stick. Ensure an even layer for effective adhesion.
- Press the cut pieces of textured materials onto the glued side of the popsicle sticks. Encourage variety by using different textures on each stick.
- Let the sensory sticks dry completely before use. This ensures the textured materials are securely attached.
- Use descriptive language and open-ended questions as your child explores the different sensory sticks, e.g. "how does that feel?" "You're touching the pink ribbon. The pink ribbon feels so smooth!"
 - Words to use: "bumpy," "smooth," "rough," "soft," color names, etc.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Texture Exploration:** Interacting with different textures on the sensory sticks helps babies explore and understand the artistic concept of texture, which is fundamental in art.
- **Material Properties:** Learning about different materials, such as silk, cotton, and bubble wrap, introduces babies to the idea of material properties and how they affect sensory experiences in art.
- **Sensory Integration:** Combining various textures on the sensory sticks supports sensory integration, helping babies understand how different sensory inputs can be used creatively.
- **Tactile Discrimination:** Foster tactile discrimination by helping babies differentiate between various textures and materials.



Exploring Clay

MATERIALS

- Air-dry clay or modeling clay
- Optional: Some water to soften the clay

DIRECTIONS

- Set up a designated play area with a table or mat for children to explore clay.
- Provide each child with a portion of air-dry clay or modeling clay to work with.
- Invite children to use the clay to explore, investigate, and discover its malleability.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Texture Exploration:** Interacting with clay helps babies explore and understand the artistic concept of texture, as they feel the soft and pliable nature of the material.
- **Form and Shape:** Creating various shapes and forms with clay introduces babies to the concepts of form and dimensionality in art, fostering an understanding of three-dimensional space.
- **Artistic Techniques:** Using clay helps babies become familiar with basic artistic techniques such as molding and sculpting, which are foundational in art creation.
- **Sensory Exploration:** Enhance sensory exploration as babies feel and manipulate the clay, stimulating their sense of touch and tactile perception.
- **Motor Skills:** Develops fine and gross motor skills as babies use their hands to squish, roll, and rip the clay, improving hand strength & dexterity, while balancing their core and limbs (gross motor).



Musical Expression & Movement

MATERIALS

- Set of baby-friendly bells (e.g. hand or wrist bells)
- Soft fabric or mat for a comfortable play area

Songs to Sing:

- "Ring-a-Ling":
 - (Sing) Ring-a-ling, hear the bell,
 - (Shake the bells) Shake it soft, then shake it well.
- "Up and Down":
 - (Sing) Up, up, up to the sky,
 - (Shake the bells up) Ring the bells, oh so high.
 - (Sing) Down, down, down to the ground,
 - (Shake the bells down) Gentle bells make a soft sound.

DIRECTIONS

- Allow babies to explore the bells independently, encouraging them to shake, tap, and listen to the different sounds they produce.
- Play simple rhythms or tunes using the bells, and encourage the baby to imitate or follow along. Describe the sounds and actions to enhance the baby's engagement.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Sound Exploration:** Interacting with musical bells helps babies explore and understand the artistic concept of sound, including pitch and volume variations.
- **Rhythm and Timing:** Playing with bells introduces basic rhythmic concepts, helping babies understand timing and patterns in music, which are foundational in musical art.
- **Sensory Experience:** The tactile experience of handling the bells, combined with the auditory experience of making sound, supports a rich sensory exploration of art through music.
- **Creative Expression:** Experimenting with different sounds and rhythms allows babies to express themselves creatively, engaging in early forms of artistic expression through music.
- **Rhythm and Timing:** Introduce basic concepts of rhythm and timing as babies experiment with making sounds and following simple musical patterns.



Let's Paint & Play!

MATERIALS

- Non-toxic, washable fingerpaint (multiple colors)
- Large sheets of paper or a roll of butcher paper
- Containers for paint (e.g., small trays or cups)
- Wet wipes or a damp cloth for easy cleanup

DIRECTIONS

- Pour small amounts of different colors of fingerpaint onto the paper or into containers. Spread the paint out so the baby can easily reach and interact with it.
- Allow the baby to explore the fingerpaint independently, encouraging them to use their hands to experiment with different colors and textures.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Color Exploration:** Interacting with fingerpaint helps babies explore and understand basic color concepts, including mixing and differentiating between colors.
- **Texture and Sensation:** The tactile experience of handling paint provides an understanding of texture, a fundamental aspect of artistic expression.
- **Pattern and Design:** Creating patterns and designs with fingerpaint introduces concepts of pattern and design, helping babies develop an early appreciation for visual art.
- **Creative Expression:** Using fingerpaint allows babies to engage in creative expression, experimenting with different techniques and designs to create unique artwork.
- **Cognitive Development:** Support cognitive development by exploring cause and effect (e.g., touching the paint creates marks) and experimenting with different colors and textures.



Finger Puppet Show (Intro to Performative Arts)

MATERIALS

- Finger puppets (variety of characters or simple DIY puppets made from felt or fabric)
- Soft, safe play mat or floor area

DIRECTIONS

- Demonstrate simple puppet actions, such as making the puppets wave, talk, or perform basic movements. Use the puppets to engage in simple, playful story.
- After your story, allow your babies to explore the puppets as well.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Character Exploration:** Observing and interacting with finger puppets helps babies explore and understand the concept of character, including personality traits and roles in a story.
- **Storytelling and Narrative:** Following simple puppet stories introduces the concept of storytelling, allowing babies to understand basic narrative structure and sequencing.
- **Performance and Expression:** Using finger puppets to perform and express different emotions introduces the concept of performance art, encouraging babies to convey feelings and actions through their puppets.
- **Creative Play:** Engaging in puppet play fosters creative expression in which babies will later invent their own stories and scenarios, using their imagination to create dynamic and engaging play experiences.
- **Social Interaction:** Promote social interaction as babies participate in shared play with the puppets, learning about turn-taking and cooperative play.