



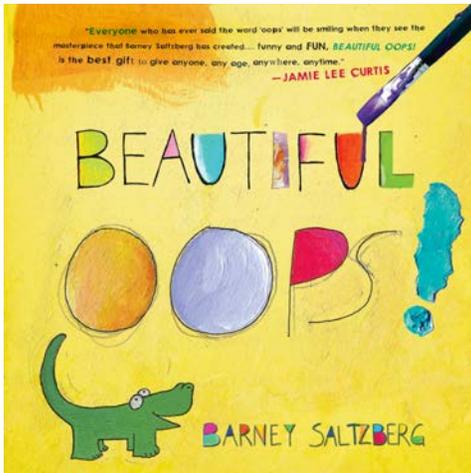
Art (S.T.E.A.M.)



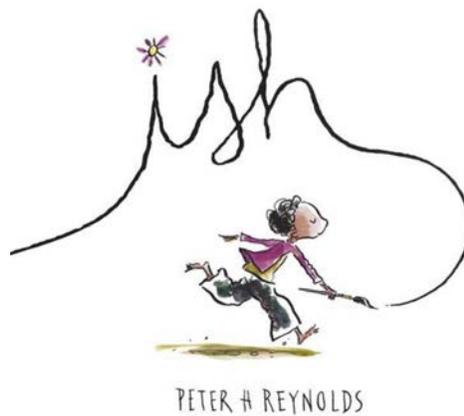
Art

Participating in artistic activities cultivates children's self-expression and emotional intelligence. Through drawing, painting, music, or drama, children learn to communicate ideas, explore their emotions, and appreciate different perspectives, fostering creativity, empathy, and cultural understanding. Moreover, art provides a platform for children to develop resilience as they learn to embrace mistakes and turn them into opportunities for growth and expression.

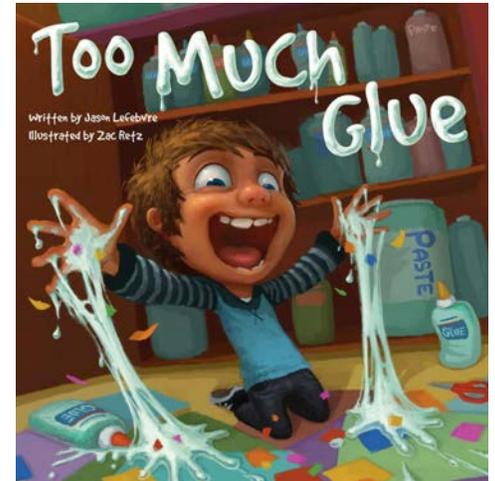
Books We Love That Support Art Concepts:



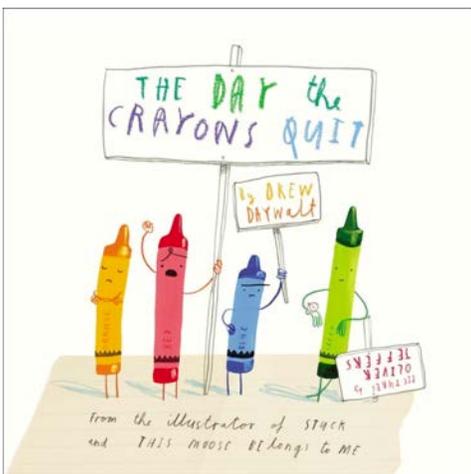
Beautiful Oops!,
by Barney Saltzberg



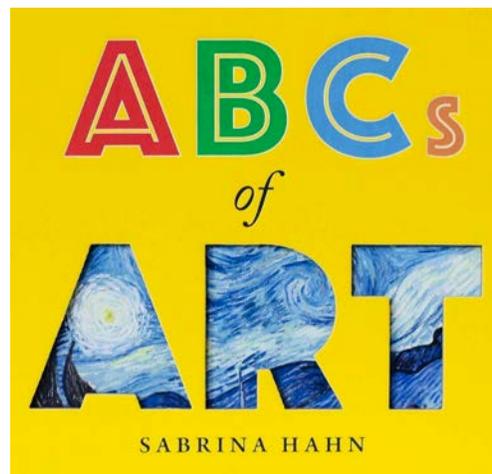
Ish,
by Peter Reynolds



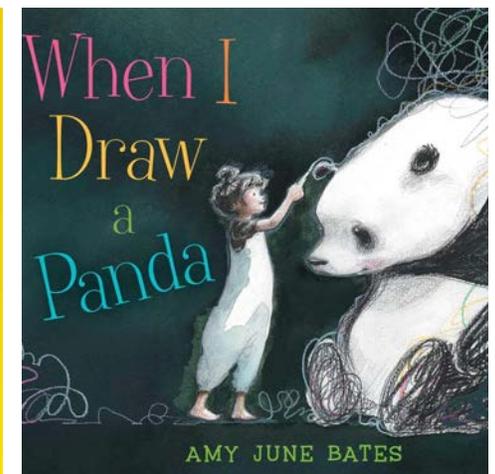
Too Much Glue,
by Jason Lefebvre



The Day The Crayons Quit,
by Drew Dewart



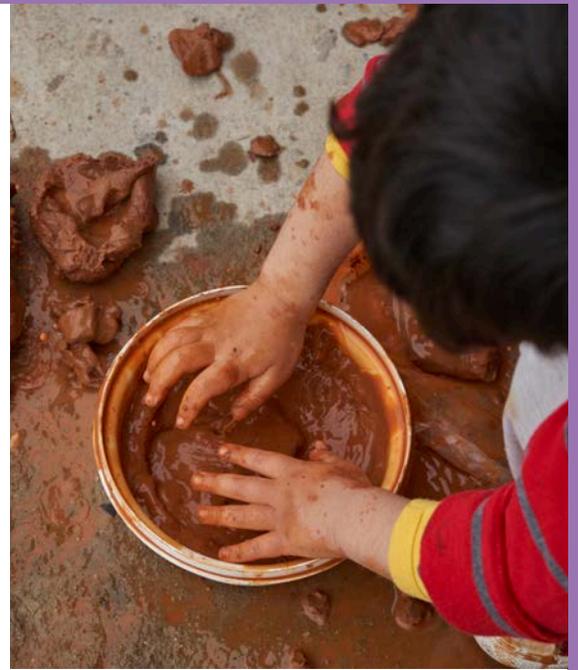
ABC's of Art,
by Sabrina Hahn



When I Draw a Panda,
by Amy Bates

20 Materials to Support Art Exploration

1. Watercolor paints and brushes
2. Sketchbooks or drawing pads
3. Modeling clay or Play-Doh
4. Tempera paints and sponges
5. Oil pastels
6. Collage materials (e.g., magazines, fabric scraps)
7. Glue
8. Loose Parts (beads, yarn, buttons, etc.)
9. Washable markers and crayons
10. Finger paints
11. Easel
12. Scissors
13. Clay sculpting tools
14. Fabric paint and stencils
15. Glitter
16. Chalk pastels
17. Wood carving tools
18. Clipboards
19. Calligraphy pens and ink
20. Air-dry clay





Transient Art with Loose Parts

MATERIALS

- Frame (can be a picture frame, cardboard frame, or any other suitable frame)
- Loose parts (natural materials such as leaves, twigs, flowers, shells, as well as small objects like beads, buttons, feathers, and ribbons)
- Optional: Camera to take a picture of their finished work.

DIRECTIONS

- Set up a designated area with the frame and a variety of loose parts for children to explore.
- Encourage children to use the loose parts to create temporary designs and arrangements within the frame. Let them arrange and rearrange the materials as they wish, exploring different compositions and patterns.
- Discuss the concept of transient art with the children, explaining that their creations are temporary and can be changed or dismantled at any time.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Creativity and Expression:** Children will **express their creativity and imagination** through the creation of transient art pieces, exploring different combinations of materials and design elements. They will understand transient art as temporary creations that allow for freedom of expression and experimentation, **emphasizing process over product.**
- **Sensory Exploration:** Children will engage their senses as they explore the textures, colors, and properties of the natural and man-made materials used in their art creations.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Children will develop fine motor skills as they manipulate and arrange the loose parts within the frame, refining their dexterity and coordination.



Exploring Clay (With Dried Lavender)

MATERIALS

- Air-dry clay or modeling clay
- Loose parts (shells, stones, toothpicks, caps, etc.)
- Clay tools (rolling pins & sculpting tools)
- Optional:
 - Small bowls or containers for organizing loose parts
 - Dried lavender for an extra sensory-rich experience

DIRECTIONS

- Set up a designated play area with a table or mat for children to explore clay and loose parts.
- Provide each child with a portion of air-dry clay or modeling clay to work with.
- Arrange loose parts such as shells, stones, and toothpicks in small bowls or containers, making them easily accessible to children.
- Invite children to use the clay and loose parts to explore, investigate, discover, and create.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Embraces creativity and imagination** through the creation of sculptures and designs using clay and loose parts, promoting artistic expression and experimentation.
- Engages senses as they explore the tactile qualities of clay, loose parts, and dried lavender, **fostering sensory awareness and appreciation.**
- **Integrates sensory experiences** from different materials, textures, and scents, enhancing their ability to process and respond to sensory stimuli.



Mixed Media, Multi-Sensory Art

MATERIALS

- Canvas or sturdy paper
- Paints in related colors
- Paintbrushes
- Palette or paint mixing tray
- Cup of water and sponge (to change colors)
- Reference image of the chosen artwork (e.g., "Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh)
- Optional: Additional mixed media materials of your choice such as strings or fairy lights (battery-operated), crayons, glitter, glue, or collage materials (e.g., tissue paper, fabric scraps)

DIRECTIONS

- Introduce the chosen artwork to the children, discussing its features, colors, and overall composition. Show them a reference image of the artwork, either printed or displayed digitally, for inspiration.
- Provide each child with a canvas or sturdy paper and materials. Encourage them to use the reference image as a guide while creating their own interpretation of the artwork.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Mixed Media Exploration:** Children will experiment with a variety of art materials and techniques, including paint, strings, and fairy lights, to create multi-dimensional and textured artworks.
- **Creative Interpretation:** Children will interpret and reinterpret the original artwork in their own unique ways, adding personal touches and creative flourishes to their mixed media art pieces.
- **Sensory Engagement:** Children will engage their senses as they explore the tactile qualities of paint, strings, and fairy lights, fostering sensory awareness and fine motor development.
- **Art Appreciation:** Children will develop an appreciation for famous works of art and learn about different artistic styles and movements through hands-on exploration and discussion.



Symmetrical Leaf Sketching

MATERIALS

- Leaves (various types)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Paper
- Coloring utensils (colored pencils, markers, crayons)

DIRECTIONS

- Invite children to collect a variety of leaves with you, and then cut the leaves in half.
- Tape one half of the leaf, the top side facing up, onto a piece of paper to secure it in place for sketching.
- Encourage children to observe the texture, patterns, and details of the leaves as they begin coloring the other side.
- When children are finished working, welcome them to talk more about their process and what they noticed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Allows for the **expression of their creativity and artistic vision** as they use coloring utensils to recreate the other side of a leaf, experimenting with different techniques and styles.
- **Practices attention to detail** as they observe and replicate the intricate features of a leaf, including the arrangement of veins and the presence of any irregularities or markings.
- **Enhances their visual-spatial skills** as they translate three-dimensional observations into two-dimensional representations through sketching, considering proportions, scale, and perspective.
- **Develops observational skills** as they carefully examine the texture, patterns, and details of a leaf's top side to recreate the other side through sketching.



Blooming, Beautiful Flowers

MATERIALS

- One sheet of white paper
- coloring utensils
- loose parts (glitter, pom-poms, rocks, sequins, buttons, seaglass, shredded tissue paper, sticks, leaves, flower petals, etc.)
- 4 popsicle sticks or 4 twigs
- Optional: glue and photos of flowers for inspiration.
 - Book featured: *Swirl by Swirl*, by Joyce Sidman

DIRECTIONS

- Provide each child with one sheet of paper and optional images of flowers for inspiration.
- Attach 4 popsicle sticks or twigs to the paper as a base for inspiration.
- Offer children coloring utensils and craft items for them to create flowers.
- This can be a transient art experience (meaning you do not glue down materials - they can be continuously rearranged) or a permanent piece of art where children glues the parts down.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Lateral thinking is supported** as your child explore and discovers different ways to create and decorate their flowers (**combines concrete knowledge + "out-of-the-box" thinking**).
- Promotes **mathematical thinking** by involving concepts such as symmetry, counting "petals," and exploring patterns and shapes.
- **Fine motor skills** are enhanced as your child delicately maneuvers and assembles small materials, **strengthening finger dexterity and hand-eye coordination**.
- Encouraging children to **experiment with different materials** to create unique painting effects **fosters creativity and self-expression** as they explore their artistic preferences and styles.
- Children will **develop an awareness of different textures** as they feel and manipulate materials such as fabric scraps, feathers, sponges, and more, **enhancing their tactile discrimination skills**.



Multi-textured Paintbrushes

MATERIALS

- About 4-6 clothespins
- 6 different materials, consider:
 - Fabric swatch, seashell, stick, flower/dried flower, leaf/leaves, cotton ball, pom pom, feather, small lego, small pinecone, small rock/pebble, etc.
- About 3 colors of tempera paint
- Container/tray to separate the colors
- 1 large sheet of construction paper or long sheet of butcher paper
- Tape (to secure the paper down)

DIRECTIONS

- Tape down a large sheet of paper for children to paint over.
- You may choose the materials to attach to the clothespins in advance or take the experience to the next level and let children decide on the materials to attach and paint with.
- Set out paint and let children explore!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will engage in **multi-sensory exploration** as they manipulate various materials attached to clothespins to paint with, **stimulating tactile, visual, and proprioceptive senses**.
- Encouraging children to experiment with different materials to create unique painting effects **fosters creativity and self-expression** as they explore their artistic preferences and styles.
- Children will **develop an awareness of different textures** as they feel and manipulate materials such as fabric scraps, feathers, sponges, and more, enhancing their **tactile discrimination skills**.
- Children will **explore cause-and-effect relationships** as they observe how different materials leave distinct marks and patterns on paper when used for painting, fostering an understanding of cause and effect in art-making.