



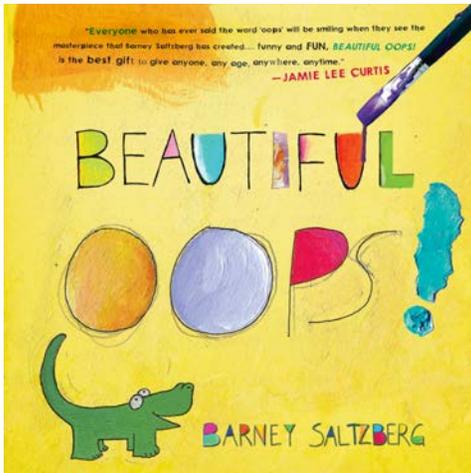
Art (S.T.E.A.M.)



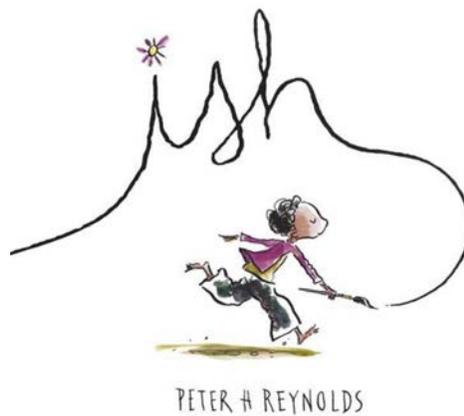
Art

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.

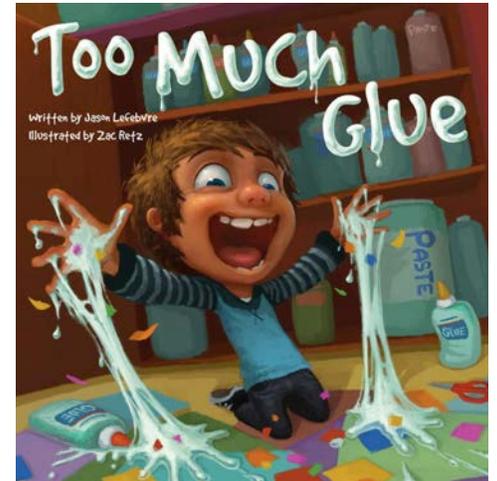
Books We Love That Support Art Concepts:



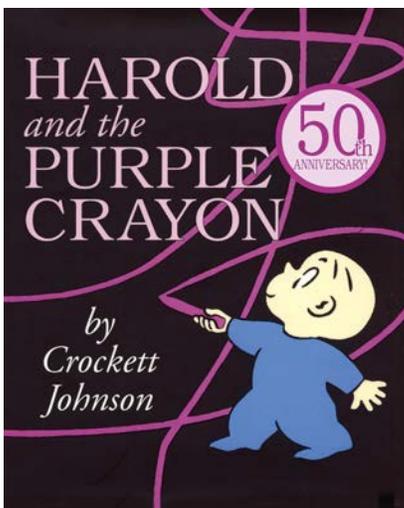
Beautiful Oops!,
by Barney Saltzberg



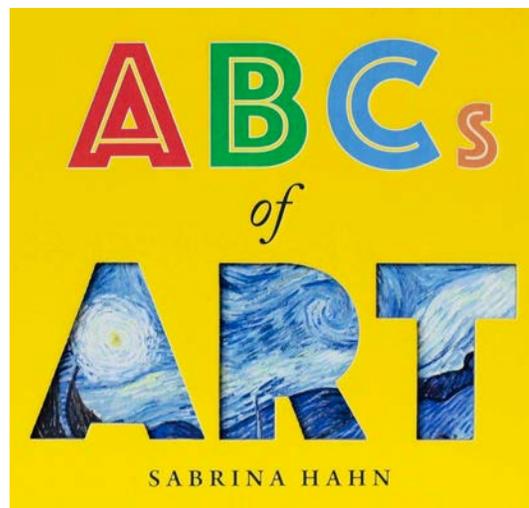
Ish,
by Peter Reynolds



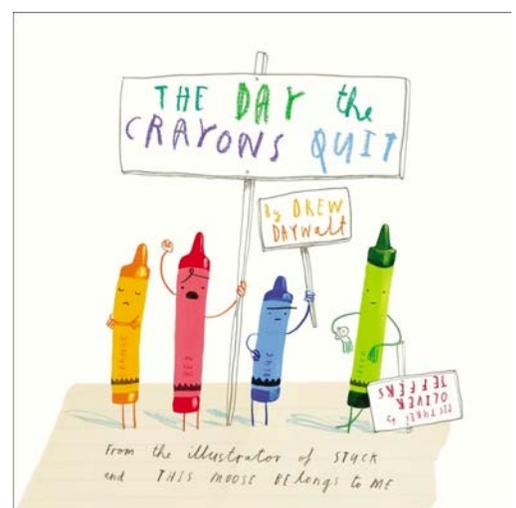
Too Much Glue,
by Jason Lefebvre



Harold and the Purple Crayon,
by Crockett Johnson



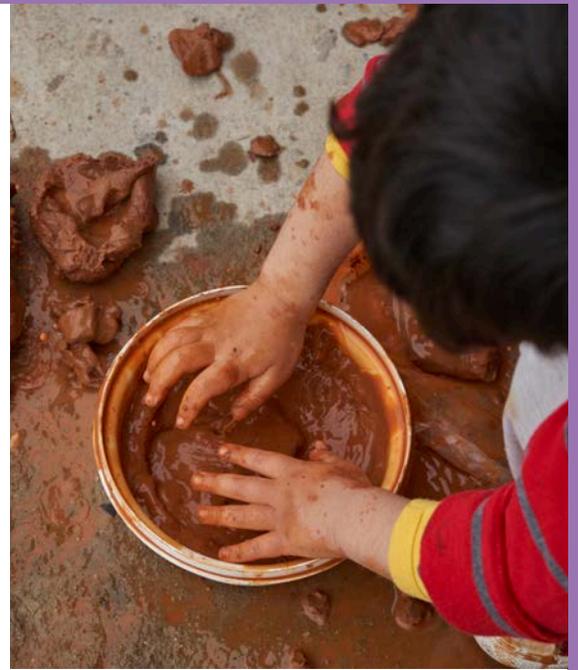
ABC's of Art,
by Sabrina Hahn

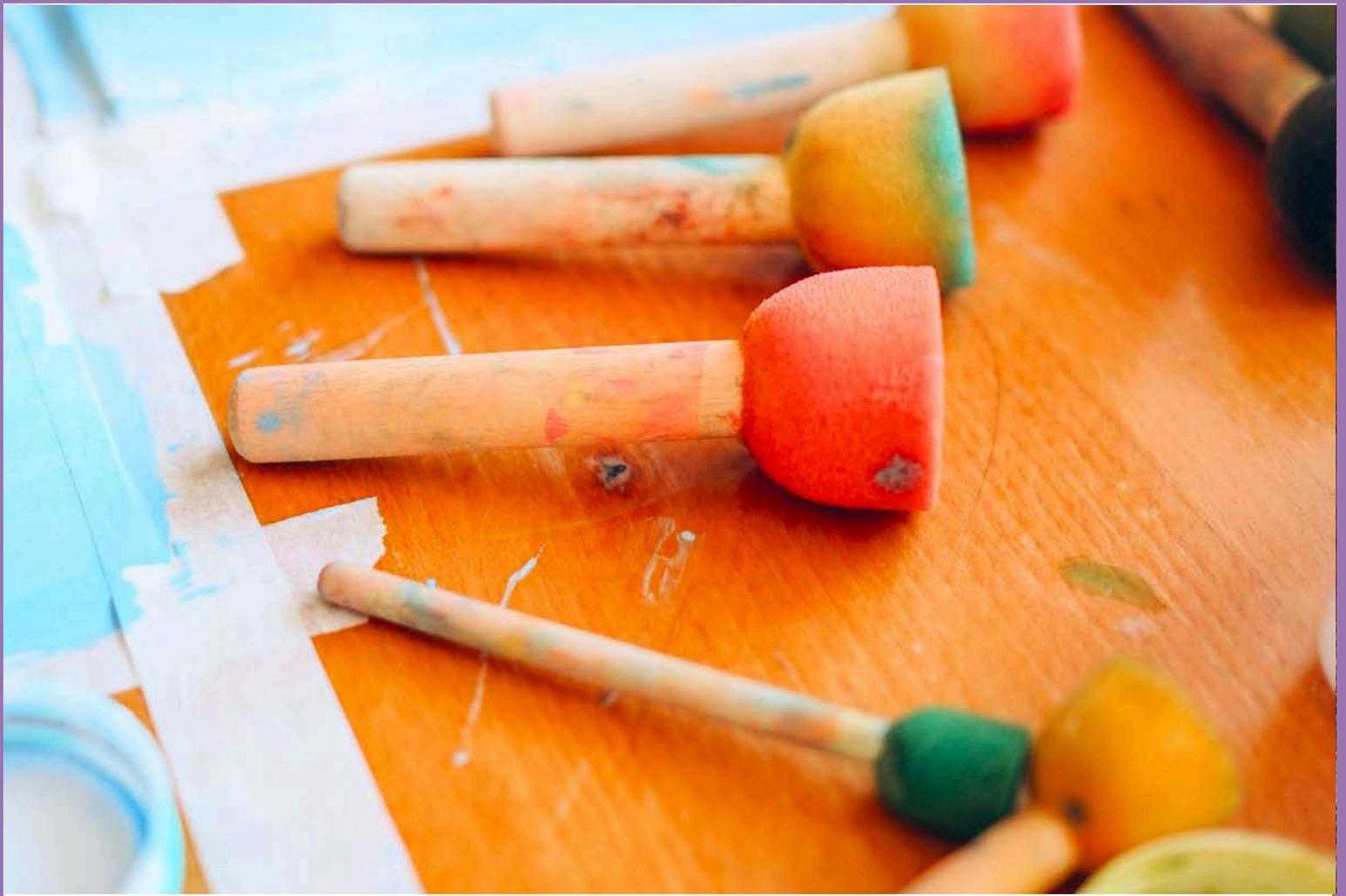


The Day The Crayons Quit,
by Drew Dewart

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
17. Spray bottles
18. Clipboards
19. Construction paper, tissue paper, etc.
20. Air-dry clay





Sponge Stamping

MATERIALS

- Sponges
 - (cut into various shapes)
- Paint (in different colors)
- Paper or cardstock

DIRECTIONS

- Set up a painting area with a covered surface to protect from spills.
- Pour small amounts of paint into shallow containers.
- Allow the paintings to dry completely before displaying or further embellishing.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Fine Motor Skills:** Children will refine their hand-eye coordination and grip strength as they manipulate the sponges to create stamped designs.
- **Creativity:** Through experimentation with colors and shapes, children will express their creativity and explore different artistic possibilities.
- **Sensory Exploration:** Sensory exploration is encouraged through the tactile experience of dipping the sponges into paint and pressing them onto the paper.
- **Cognitive Development:** Children will engage in problem-solving and decision-making as they plan and execute their stamping designs.
- **Language Development:** Encourage children to describe their creations, express preferences for colors and shapes, and engage in conversation about their artwork.



Tissue Paper Color Bleed

MATERIALS

- Colored tissue paper (various colors)
- Spray bottle filled with water
 - Alternative: If you don't have a spare spray bottle, you can use a cup of water and a paintbrush
- Large sheet of paper or surface to work over
- Optional: Art supplies like glue, scissors, or markers for further creativity

DIRECTIONS

- Invite children to cut or tear the colored tissue paper into small pieces.
- Place the tissue paper pieces over the paper.
- Fill a spray bottle with water.
- Invite children to spray the tissue paper pieces with water using the spray bottle.
 - Encourage them to spray enough water to saturate the tissue paper.
- As the tissue paper gets wet, colors will bleed and blend together, creating beautiful watercolor-like patterns.
- Allow the artwork to dry completely.
- Once dry, invite children to peel off the tissue paper & reveal their watercolor creation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Encourages creativity and imagination** as children experiment with colors and observe the transformation of the tissue paper as it absorbs water.
- This is a multi-step, process-driven experience that **promotes, order, sequence, inferencing, observations, and cognitive reflection.**
- Spraying the water bottle and cutting, ripping, and handling the tissue paper pieces help **develop hand-eye coordination, finger dexterity, and control.**



Vertical Art

MATERIALS

- White butcher paper
- Coloring materials of your child's choice:
 - Paint, crayons, markers, oil pastels
- Tape

DIRECTIONS

- Clear a space along a wall to tape long strips of butcher paper.
 - If you opt for paint, you may also line the floor with butcher paper as well to catch paint dripping.
- Ensure the paper spans from their feet to over your children's head, inviting them to bend and reach.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Child-led experiences with coloring utensils promotes self-regulation, self-expression, independence, and decision-making - **supporting social emotional wellbeing.**
- A vertical surface art experience **provides children with a wider range of motions:**
 - **Crossing and maneuvering around the mid-line** of the body by drawing/painting from above/under and left/right of the torso with one arm.
 - **Visual perception** as children will be closer to the paper, compared to a seated art activity.
 - **Shoulder elbow stability** as children have to lift and maneuver their arm (instead of resting it on a table).
 - **Muscle strength, coordination, and balance** as children bends, stretches, reaches, and stabilizes their coloring utensil.
- **Cognition is supported** as children internalizes color awareness & blending,
 - Concepts of cause-and-effect, focus and attention, and creative thinking.



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.



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.



Chalk Exploration

MATERIALS

- Chalk (various colors)
- Easel (for indoor use)
- Sidewalk or pavement (for outdoor use)
- Optional: Spray bottle filled with water

DIRECTIONS

- Provide children with chalk so they may experiment with strokes and mark-making.
- Optionally, invite children to use the spray bottle filled with water to blend and smudge the chalk for different effects.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Creativity and Expression:** Chalk exploration provides children with a creative outlet to express themselves through art. They can experiment with different colors, shapes, and patterns, fostering creativity and imagination.
- **Spatial Awareness:** Drawing with chalk on both vertical (easel) and horizontal (sidewalk) surfaces helps children develop spatial awareness and understand how their movements translate to different spaces.
- **Color Recognition:** Sorting and using different colored chalks helps children learn and identify colors, enhancing their color recognition skills.
- **Sensory Exploration:** The texture and feel of chalk provide sensory stimulation for children as they explore the tactile experience of drawing and blending colors.
- **Motor Development:** Engaging in chalk exploration allows children to simultaneously refine their fine motor skills by holding and manipulating the chalk and develop gross motor skills by using whole-arm movements or whole-body actions to draw on different surfaces.