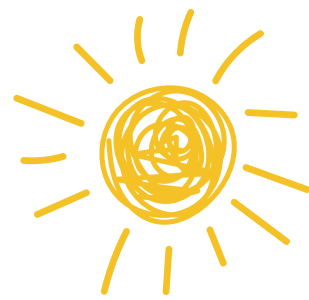




# About Art & Creativity



Art experiences for young children should emphasize the process of exploring, creating, and expressing themselves—rather than focusing on producing a perfect final product. While crafts (projects designed to look a certain way) can have their place, it's best to limit them. Crafts often require children to follow strict instructions, which can stifle creativity and lead to frustration if their piece doesn't “match” the example.

Instead, provide a wide variety of open-ended art materials like paints, crayons, markers, paper scraps, glue, scissors, and play dough—and encourage children to experiment freely. The goal is to let them discover, imagine, and enjoy the creative journey, building confidence and skills along the way.



## Tips for Successful Art Time

- Provide a non-carpeted space for creating. Messes are part of the fun, and it's easier to clean up paint, play dough, or markers on hard surfaces.
- Establish simple rules to set expectations and boundaries:
  - Draw on paper only.
  - Art must always be done in the designated area.
  - Only cut paper that Mommy or Daddy gives you.
  - Play dough is for rolling and pounding—not for tasting!
- Purchase child-friendly art supplies that are age-appropriate, such as:
  - Washable paints and markers
  - Safety scissors
  - Non-toxic play dough
- Encourage your child to talk about their art. Instead of asking, “What is it?”, try saying, “Tell me about your picture.” This encourages language development and gives insight into their creativity.
- Celebrate their art! Show your child how proud you are by displaying their creations around your home or office. It boosts confidence and shows their efforts are valued.

