

HOW IS MY BABY/TODDLER LEARNING FROM ART?

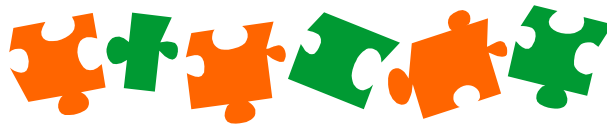


Creativity is valuable and we encourage it in the children. Creative people are resourceful and thoughtful. A secure relationship with caregivers is a strong foundation for creativity. If a baby feels safe and trusts her caregiver and the surroundings, she is eager to explore and find out more.

We provide a variety of art experiences for the children. Babies have opportunities to use their senses to explore and create. The process of squishing finger paint in their hands, tearing paper or scribbling with crayons is satisfying for babies and toddlers. They are developing eye-hand coordination, and are making choices to change the way a drawing looks. We provide crayons, chalk, play dough and other materials for creativity and pre-writing skills.



At this age, children's creations do not usually represent real objects unless we, as adults, label them so. As they grow, children will attempt to create what they see in real life. But for now, they are simply enjoying the pleasure of creating and exploring the materials.



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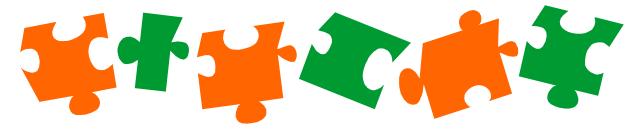


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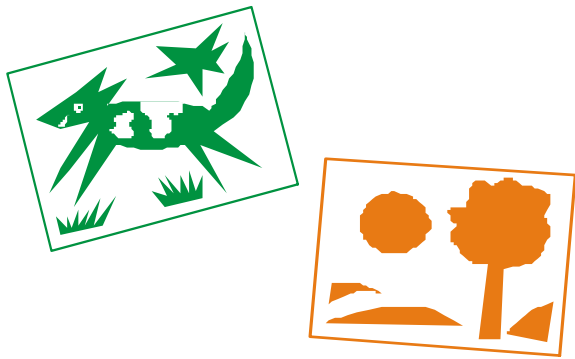
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Teachers use descriptive language as we discuss a child's creations ("This painting has circular strokes." "This color is bright!"). By encouraging discussion about what has been made, we support children's language development. We focus on specific aspects ("How did you make this line so squiggly?"). We strive to help them feel their work is respected and valued. We often post the children's creations for everyone to enjoy.

We encourage children to explore different art media. We might hang some sticky paper on the wall and have children enjoy sticking items to it to make collages. We might have children paint with their bare feet. These experiences let children explore real materials with their senses. This is how babies and toddlers learn best.



Released by Don Bower,
Extension Human Development Specialist
Developed under contract by Linda J. Grant

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 24-08

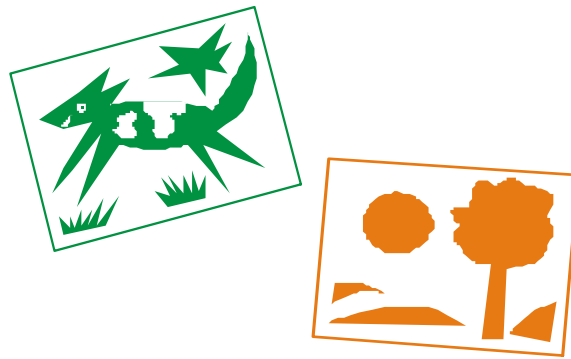
July, 1999

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Gale A. Buchanan, Dean and Director

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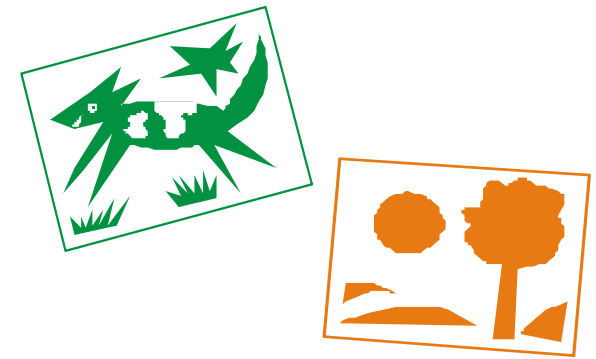
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