Art

Helping Hands Tip Sheet

Did you know?

Art often includes exploring materials to create something that is pleasing to the creator.

Getting Started-

As soon as children show an interest in handling objects, offer non-toxic, washable markers, chalk and crayons.

Offer plenty of opportunities for children to explore materials.

It is the process that is interesting to the child, not the end product.

Product Art

What is product art? It is an art activity where the staff member has an end result in mind when offering an activity to children.

If you are offering a product art activity, make sure it is appropriate to the age of the child and requires minimal assistance from the adult.

Process Art

What is process art? It is an art activity where the staff member offers materials for exploration without an end product in mind.

Some examples would be: Easel painting; plain unlined paper and crayons or markers; chalk and water on construction paper; collage materials and glue; modeling clay or dough; flowerpots to paint or glue materials to; wooden craft sticks with paint and glue to assemble into a 3-dimensional object. The list is endless.

If you are offering a process art activity, make sure the materials are non-toxic and safe for the children who will use them. There should be enough materials to be interesting, but not so many that children are overwhelmed with choices.

A question that each program needs to think about:

Should food items be used in art activities?

In settings where families may not have enough food, it is a good idea to "waste" food by using it for art?

What message are you sending to children when you use food for art experiences?

Displaying Art

When you display children's art, think about placement location. If you place it high on the wall, only adults will see it. If you place it low on the wall, is it safe to be in reach of children?

Mounting the art against a piece of color-coordinated construction paper adds importance to the art and sends the message that the art the children created is special and important.

Gather and use inexpensive frames from thrift stores or discount stores to display children's art.