



NEWSLETTER

May 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

THE ART EXPERIENCE

Process, Not Product

When you do art and craft activities with children, the **process** - how things happen is often much more important than the **product** - the object you end up with.

Exploring possibilities

Process is especially important for toddlers and young preschoolers who are just beginning to explore the world around them. They have lots to learn about the feel of finger paint between their fingers, the way it can be pushed around on paper and the way the colours mix together. It's not at all important that their painting be "beautiful." Their first attempts might end up a deep brown mixture of all the colours and that's fine. They discovered a lot about colours and textures.

Discovering solutions

When you think more about process than about the product of art and craft activities, you will encourage children to try out new materials. You want them to *discover* different ways to put paint on paper, how different textures can be made to stick to one another, what happens when you try to build a bridge with egg cartons. While they are doing this, children also get a chance to develop their problem solving skills. Let them try things their way, even if it doesn't always turn out. Not everything they make has to be put on show on the refrigerator door!

Playing with materials

Even after the age of first discovery, children still need opportunities to just enjoy the process, without worrying whether their product will be "pretty" or "good." With that pressure removed, older children (and even adults!) can have fun playing around with materials and discovering new effects. When you plan art experiences, remember to keep a balance between aiming at the product and simply letting the process unfold.

Second Annual Spring Art Event and T-shirt Give Away "What I love about my community!"

All children 2 to 6 years old in the South Okanagan - Similkameen are invited to enter a painting or drawing for a chance to win a colourful, comfy **Communities for Kids** T-shirt.

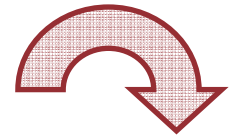
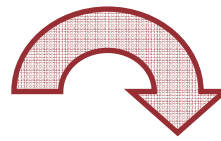
Draw or paint a picture of what you like best about your community, and bring it to your Okanagan Regional Library Branch or Penticton Public Library.

On the back of your picture please write:
CFK Spring Art Event 2009
Your name, age, phone number & community

**Entry deadline
June 5, 2009**

Communities for Kids, in partnership with Success by 6®, engages families and communities in children's healthy early development.

Basic Craft Supplies



CREPE PAPER BLOTS

What You Need:

- Different coloured crepe paper, cut into different shapes and sizes. (Make sure it is **not** the non-bleeding type of crepe paper.)
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vinegar mixed in small bowl.
- paint brushes
- white construction paper

What You Do:

- Lay a piece of the crepe paper on the white construction paper.
- Brush the vinegar/water mixture over the crepe paper.
- Continue steps one and two until your white paper has different colored paper all over it.
- Set aside and let dry.
- When dry, brush crepe paper off and you will be left with a beautiful design.

Here are some basic craft supplies that will encourage children to express themselves through arts and crafts.

- Child-safe scissors
- Glue sticks, white glue or paste
- Large and regular-sized crayons (washable)
- Markers, some with different tips (washable)
- Coloured pencils, chalk
- Paint and paint brushes
- Wrapping paper scraps, ribbon
- Old catalogues, magazines, greeting cards, construction papers, newsprint, scrap paper
- Popsicle sticks
- Wool and fabric scraps
- Empty boxes, milk and egg cartons, toilet paper rolls

Painting beyond Brushes

Just about anything can be turned into a creative and interesting painting tool. Let your imagination run wild!

- Brushes (small brushes, tooth brushes, old paint brushes, etc.)
- Large paint rollers (attach them to an old broom handle and children can roller paint on the sidewalk)
- Fingers and toes
- Sponges, Q-tips, eye droppers
- Squeeze bottles and spray bottles
- Cookie cutters, toy animals (print with them)
- Wooden blocks (glue things on them to create different textures)
- Kitchen utensils (potato mashers dipped in paint make interesting designs)
- Marbles (dip them in paint and then roll them around in a box lined with paper)
- Straws (blow paint around on paper)
- Toy cars (roll them around in paint, then on paper)
- Pine branches
- Carpet pieces, mittens that have lost their mate (print with them)
- Toilet paper rolls (roll on paper; glue string or other textures to rolls)
- Bubble painting (add bubble liquid to paint and blow to paint bubbles on paper)
- String, wool
- Ice cubes (mix paint with lots of water in yogurt containers, add a popsicle stick for a handle, freeze)

Information provided in this newsletter is from the parenting resource *Process, Not Product* by Betsy Mann, with help from Barb Stevenson, Home Care Provider, Ottawa and can be found at www.parentsmatter.ca

For more great information, check out our web site at

www.communitiesforkids.ca

Send comments, suggestions, ideas and questions to communitiesforkids@telus.net or call 250-496-5511.
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