

Creative Arts & Expression Resources¹

Evidence Sources	<p>The Arts in Early Childhood: Social and Emotional Benefits of Arts Participation: A Literature Review and Gap-Analysis 2000-2015 (0-8) https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/arts-in-early-childhood-dec2015-rev.pdf <i>This December 2015 review adds to the growing evidence about how arts participation helps young children develop strong social and emotional skills. The study revealed that increasing the use of the arts can benefit children’s learning in language and literacy, math and science, and most importantly in social-emotional development.</i></p> <p>Arts Integration: A Promising Approach to Improving Early Learning (5-9) http://www.air.org/system/files/downloads/report/Arts-Integration-Wolf-Trap-February-2016.pdf <i>Research conducted by Wolf Trap and the American Institutes for Research showed that students in Wolf Trap’s Early Childhood STEM Learning through the Arts program gained an additional 26-34 days of math learning, as compared to students in control groups This study helps to support the concept that the arts can be a powerful and effective way to teach. Find more</i> http://www.wolftrap.org/education/institute-for-early-learning-through-the-arts/impact.aspx</p> <p>Childhood, Culture and Creativity: A Literature Review (0-8) http://www.academia.edu/679206/Childhood_Culture_and_Creativity_A_Literature_Review <i>Using the new sociology of childhood as a theoretical framework, this literature review synthesizes the research on childhood, culture and creativity. More specifically, this review examines the relationships between culture and creativity and the areas of play, multimodal communication, and new technologies for young children.</i></p> <p>K-4 Standards in Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts (5-9) http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/standards/full-text/K-4-standards.aspx <i>This website contains links to Dance Music, Theater, and Visual Arts standards for K-4 students. They describe the skills and knowledge that students are expected to have acquired at the end of grade 4.</i></p> <p>National Core Arts Standards (3-9) http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/ <i>The National Core Arts Standards include five arts disciplines: Dance, Music, Theater, Visual Arts and Media Arts. The standards provide the foundation for arts education for all students. These standards are an effort to articulate the most fundamental elements of the arts, in the hope that by doing so there will be recognition that every student can and should achieve arts literacy.</i></p> <p>The National Visual Arts Standards (5-9) https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/national-visual-arts-standards <i>Developed by the National Art Education Association, this document describes standards in visual art for grades K-12. These standards are intended as a guide for student learning outcomes. The document begins with a discussion of the importance of and the issues associated with standards in arts education. It then outlines the standards for grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12.</i></p>
	<p>Block Building and Make-Believe for Every Child (3-6) http://www.smartbeginningsse.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/blockplay.pdf <i>This article offers practical suggestions for engaging boys and girls in play centers that they may not usually visit.</i></p> <p>Creativity Development in Early Childhood: The Role of Educators (0-6) http://www.academia.edu/4083534/Creativity_Development_in_Early_Childhood_The_Role_of_Educators <i>This article describes creative development in toddlers (ages 0-3) and in the preschool to kindergarten stage (ages 3-6). It also discusses how educators can support creative development at each stage.</i></p> <p>Integrating Principles of Universal Design into the Early Childhood Curriculum (0-8) https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Integrating-Principles-of-Universal-Design-Into-the-Dinnebeil-Boat/e99bd01432da51ad0ffc7733edd96f7f39fc3d9a <i>The authors offer examples and recommendations for how teachers of young children can support each young learner in diverse early learning settings by using Universal Design for Learning.</i></p>

¹ This collection was compiled and annotated by [Camille Catlett](#) for the Vermont Agency of Education and funded by the Vermont Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. It is current as of January 2020. **Highlighted resources are available in English and Spanish.**

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Print Sources

Inviting Creativity: The Teacher's Role in Art (2-7)

<http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2006/child-centered-art-vs-teacher-directed-projects>

There are many different ways to approach the teaching of art. This article identifies and critiques teacher-directed, teacher-guided, and child-centered approaches. What is the teacher's role in children's art? This article provides guidelines for determining the creative merits of an activity or approach to art.

Looking At Art With Toddlers (0-3)

http://www.si.edu/content/seec/docs/article-artwithtoddlers.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

At a very young age, children are quite capable of having an aesthetic experience, whether it be the mixing of different textured foods on the high chair table top or visually interacting with a mobile suspended over the crib. This article highlights opportunities for adults to interact with infants and toddlers to build aesthetic capabilities in developmentally appropriate ways.

Make a Little Music (3-6) https://cpin.us/sites/default/files/CC/VPA/docs/music/make_music_naeyc.pdf

This short article makes the case for including music and movement in early childhood education programs. It also includes suggestions for those interested in learning more about music and movement for young children.

Music and Math: How Do We Make the Connection for Preschoolers? (3-5)

<http://www.childcareexchange.com/library/5015846.pdf>

This article explains how teachers can use music to stimulate and enhance preschoolers' math learning. Suggestions for activities are provided in the areas of classification, number, seriation, time, and memory skills.

Music Play: Creating Centers for Musical Play and Exploration (3-5)

https://cpin.us/sites/default/files/CC/VPA/docs/music/music_play_Young_Children.pdf

This article describes how music can be an important form of play and offers suggestions on how educators can scaffold children's learning experiences by creating musical centers. The article also contains practical suggestions with instructions for inventing music play centers and a checklist for creating a music play center.

The Patterns of Music: Young Children Learning Mathematics Through Beat, Rhythm, and Melody (0-5)

https://cpin.us/sites/default/files/fcab_resources/fcab_res_math/fcab_mat_mod/fcab_math_mod_alg/Geist_Patterns_of_Music_Jan012.pdf

This article explains how patterns in musical elements are related to mathematical principles and can be used to foster children's engagement in mathematics in activities that may not even seem mathematical. Four practical tips are offered.

The Universal Design of Early Education: Moving Forward for all Children (0-8)

https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/ECC/ECC_Universal_Design_Early_Education.pdf

This article explains the rationale behind the Universal Design for Learning and how it can support children with disabilities as well as their typically developing children. It contains a chart outlining the seven principles of the Universal Design for Learning and their corresponding educational applications.

Adaptive Art Tools (2-5) <https://youtu.be/voFo9UgaLRs>

This video shows some inexpensive and creative ways to help children of diverse abilities to build fine motor skill while expressing themselves with different art materials.

Brandon's Story: A Mother's Voice (all) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIzBK1JgGgM&feature=youtu.be>

This video highlights one family's journey from the earliest days of receiving a diagnosis, through early intervention, and into productive young adult life.

A Creative Adventure (3-5)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/creative-adventure>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/video/una-aventura-creativa>

This 13-minute video encourages classroom staff, teachers, and families to use visual and performing arts techniques to support learning and creative expression. Filmed in classrooms and home-based settings, the video demonstrates activities that allow children to use their imaginations and experience creative adventures.

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Audiovisual Sources

Creativity Takes Time <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPbjSnZnWPO> (3-9)

This short clip demonstrates the importance of providing time for creativity to be expressed.

Do Schools Kill Creativity? (3-9) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY>

This TED talk makes an entertaining and moving case for creating an education system that nurtures creativity.

Landfill Harmonic (5-9) <http://vimeo.com/52711779>

This short inspirational film presents the story of the Recycled Orchestra, where children from Cateura, Paraguay, a town built on top of a landfill, create music on recycled instruments made from garbage.

Mia's Everyday Learning Activities (clip 4) (3-5) <http://depts.washington.edu/hscenter/elo-mia>

Created by Head Start, this video comprises of four clips showing Mia, a girl with special needs, in her everyday learning activities in class. Clip 4, for example, shows Mia engaged in playing dough with other children and how the teacher helps her negotiate requesting for a "stamper".

Teach Children Music - Skipping a Beat & Developing Gross Motor Skills (3-5)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QxM9iarlTQ>

This clip show children learning to distinguish beat and rhythm, and to skip a beat, capabilities that will help with the development of their language, literacy, and gross motor skills.

Use Music to Teach Your Children Patterns (3-6)

<http://www.greatschools.org/students/academic-skills/4261-Use-music-to-teach-your-child-patterns-video.gs>

Useful for parents of children or professionals, this clip shows how musical patterns can be used to help a child recognize the visual patterns they encounter in math in early childhood settings.

When Education Goes Wrong: Taking Creativity and Play Out of Learning (3-9)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZzFM1MHz_M

In this TED talk, Nancy Carlsson-Paige speaks about how educational institutions, in their attempts to meet the bureaucratic limitations of "Race to the Top" and "No Child Left Behind" policies, have eliminated creative play from early childhood education—resulting in the loss of problem-solving and critical-thinking skills in later years.

Online Sources

10 of the Very Best Online Resources for Early Childhood Teachers (0-9)

<http://www.weareteachers.com/blogs/post/2016/01/14/10-of-the-very-best-online-resources-for-early-childhood-teachers>

This is a rich collection of online sources of ideas, many of which can support the creative arts and expression. For example, the first website listed has treasures like Ten Tips for Circle Time (<http://www.teachpreschool.org/2013/03/ten-tips-for-circletime/>) which highlights ways to use that daily routine to introduce new concepts and ideas, read together, sing together, and build a sense of respect and support for one another.

Articles for Families on Creative Arts and Music (0-5) <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/music-creative-arts>

This NAEYC website provides access to a number of free resources for families.

Awesome Drawing Ideas and Activities (2-8) <http://picklebums.com/20-drawing-ideas-activities/>

Drawing is a great learning activity with lots of fine motor skill and development, problem solving, language development and social learning opportunities, as well as buckets of pre-reading and pre-writing skills. Drawing is also a way for children to process their world, to represent and share their ideas and to explore new skills and information. Here are 40 different ideas for children of many ages.

The Benefits of Music Education (2-9)

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/the-benefits-of-music-education/>

This article discusses the benefits of music education and how it can facilitate learning in various domains such as language and spatial-temporal development.

Beyond Twinkle Twinkle: Using Music With Infants and Toddlers (0-3)

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1514-beyond-twinkle-twinkle-using-music-with-infants-and-toddlers>

This article discusses the impact of music on various developmental domains and offers suggestions for using music experiences to encourage young children's learning in these domains.

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Online Sources

Diversity Through Arts and Crafts (5-9)

<http://www.kidactivities.net/post/Diversity.aspx>

This webpage contains ideas and instructions for arts and crafts activities that promote cultural diversity.

Education Closet (5-9)

<https://educationcloset.com/category/lesson-plans/>

This website offers free ideas for integrating the arts with academics, in ways that also align with the Common Core.

Happy Hooligans (2-5)

<https://happyhooligans.ca/>

This website features crafts and activities for toddlers and preschoolers with a strong emphasis on approaches that are low-cost, developmentally appropriate and engaging for diverse young learners.

How Integrating Arts Into Other Subjects Makes Learning Come Alive (5-9)

<https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2015/01/13/how-integrating-arts-into-other-subjects-makes-learning-come-alive/>

Many studies show that exposure to the arts can help with academics. This 2015 article shares examples of how several South Burlington Vermont elementary schools took this research to heart, by weaving the arts into everything they do. They found that the approach not only boosted academic achievement but also promoted creativity, self-confidence and school pride.

How Process Art Experiences Support Preschoolers (3-5)

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/feb2014/process-art-experiences>

Is your goal to encourage children's creativity through developmentally appropriate art experiences? Review the differences between process- and product-focused art to help you get started.

Inviting Creativity: The Teacher's Role in Art (3-6)

<http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2006/child-centered-art-vs-teacher-directed-projects>

Most of us recognize the importance of early childhood art, but not everyone would agree about what it entails. Is scribbling art? Can coloring in a coloring book be considered art? This article provides guidelines for determining the creative merits of an activity or approach to art.

Lesson Plans (5-9)

<http://www.crayola.com/education/lessonplans>

Find thousands of lesson plans that support and extend instruction in every content area, including creative arts, for grades K-12. Each lesson plan is educator-developed and includes classroom-ready directions, a list of supplies needs, standards alignments, and images to help guide your lesson planning.

Reinvesting in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools (5-9)

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED522818.pdf>

Prepared by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities over 18 months, this document presents five recommendations for actions by various stakeholders to advance K-12 arts education.

Research on How Music Promotes Learning (0-9)

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/references.htm>

This website offers links to studies that document the impact of music on various domains of development such as intellectual, personal and social, and physical development, as well as in language, literacy, and numeracy skills.

Ten Ways Babies Learn When We Sing to Them (0-2)

<http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/music-math-more/10-ways-babies-learn-when-we-sing-them>

This article provides a brief outline of ten ways babies learn through songs that caregivers sing.

Using Music for Children's Learning and Growth (3-5)

http://inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu/sites/inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu/files/handouts/Kern_Handout_Using%20Music%20for%20Children%27s%20Learning%20and%20Growth%202012.pdf

This brief article offers suggestions for musical transitions in preschool routines as well as tips for creating a transition song.

Using the Arts to Synthesize Understanding (5-9)

<https://www.edutopia.org/practice/using-arts-synthesize-student-understanding>

This story and video share how a second-grade teacher paired creative arts and expression to deepen academic learning.

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Online Sources

What Are the Secrets of Creative Thinking? (all ages)

<https://theconversation.com/new-study-reveals-why-some-people-are-more-creative-than-others-90065>

Creativity is often defined as the ability to come up with new and useful ideas. Like intelligence, it can be considered a trait that everyone – not just creative “geniuses” like Picasso and Steve Jobs – possesses in some capacity. This online article shares the results of research that helps to explain why some people are more creative than others.

Why Kids Need to Move, Touch, and Experience to Learn (3-9)

<http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2015/03/26/why-kids-need-to-move-touch-and-experience-to-learn/>

When students use their bodies in the learning process, it can have a big effect, even if it seems silly or unconnected to the learning goal at hand. This resource shares how researchers have found that when students use their bodies while doing mathematical storytelling, it changes the way they think about math.