



## HELLO PARENTS,

Art is an activity where a child can explore, experiment, make decisions, and evaluate outcomes of their own actions. It allows for creativity and independent thought in a free and unrestricted way. Art is a process, not a product, and there is no right or wrong way to do it. Experimenting with art allows children to find new ways to express themselves. In this newsletter, you will find different art techniques for your child to try and maybe even create a masterpiece!

## ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

### SUGAR CREATIONS

#### MATERIALS:

- Small unbreakable mirror or cookie tray
- Sugar

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Sprinkle some sugar on the mirror or tray and invite your infant to explore it.
- Observe your child as they explore (they may touch or taste it, try to pick it up with their fingers, move their finger around creating random designs, etc.).
- Comment on what your child is doing.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

## TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

### PLAY DOUGH ART

#### MATERIALS:

- Play dough (store bought or [click here](#) for our home made play dough recipe)
- Craft sticks
- Small cars, animals or people

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Offer your child play dough to explore.
- Encourage your child to manipulate play dough by squeezing, pulling, poking, rolling, stretching or smashing it.
- Use descriptive language to talk about what your child is doing.
- Add craft sticks and small toys to expand their explorations.
- Observe your child, comment on their creations, and imitate what they are doing.

## PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

### PULLED YARN PAINTING

#### MATERIALS:

- Yarn
- Paint, a few different colours
- Paper
- Teaspoon
- Scissors

#### DIRECTIONS:

Together with your child:

- Cut various lengths of yarn.
- Fold the paper in half, press down along the fold and open it again.
- Lay the yarn randomly on one half of the paper making sure each string extends beyond the page.
- Using a teaspoon, add blobs of paint onto the paper.
- Fold the paper in half on top of the yarn and paint.
- Press the paper down and, with the paper still folded in half, gently pull out all the yarn.
- Open the paper and admire the unique creation you have made.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

## JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

### BOTTLE CAP MOSAIC

#### MATERIALS:

- Various recycled bottle caps in different colours and sizes
- Glue
- Pencil
- Paper

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Ask your child to sort all the caps by colour.
- On a sheet of paper, have your child draw a design in pencil. They can make abstract geometric designs or shapes representing specific objects.
- Now your child can start gluing the caps on top of their design, starting on the outlines and then filling in the shape.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

## SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

### PAPER WEAVING

#### MATERIALS:

- Scissors
- A sheet of construction paper
- Ruler
- Glue
- Old magazines, newspapers or flyers

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Using a pencil and a ruler, draw lines on construction paper, 1.5cm apart, starting and ending each line 2cm from the edge.
- Cut along the lines creating slots in the paper - this will be your template for weaving.
- Cut paper strips from old magazines, newspapers or flyers making sure that the strips are longer than the template.
- Start weaving the paper strips pulling them over and under the slots.
- Alternate pulling the paper over and under the slots in each new row to create a woven texture.
- Choose paper strips randomly or create a pattern by selecting specific colours.
- Continue weaving until the slots are filled.
- Secure the ends of the paper strips by gluing them to the edge of the template and trim the excess.
- To create a different look, cut the slots on the template along wavy lines.

[Click here](#) for more weaving ideas.

[Click here](#) for more art techniques to try.



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### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Have basic art materials, like glue, scissors, coloured paper, staplers, crayons, paints, brushes, and tape, available and accessible at home.
- Collect recyclable materials that your child can use creatively.
- Create a workspace where your child can freely experiment with various art techniques.
- Allow your child large chunks of time for exploring and experimenting with the materials.
- Prepare for a mess.
- Avoid giving directions or comparing your child's work to other children's.
- Document your child's creations by collecting them or taking photographs.
- Display your child's artwork.
- Make regular visits to museums, galleries, dance performances and concerts with your child (in person or virtually).