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Wildflower Art Studio

**Create. Explore.
Express.**

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Welcome to the Wildflower Art Studio

This week invites children to explore creativity through open-ended art experiences filled with color, texture, movement, and imagination. Instead of focusing on finished products, these activities encourage children to experiment, make artistic choices, and enjoy the process of creating.

Through painting, collage, building, and mixed media exploration, children strengthen creative confidence, problem-solving skills, fine motor development, and self-expression while discovering new ways to communicate ideas through art.

As you explore together, you can support your child by:

- Encouraging exploration and artistic decision-making
- Talking about colors, textures, and creative ideas together
- Celebrating effort, experimentation, and imagination
- Allowing children to create freely without focusing on perfection

with wild hearts,
the gro academy
team

Home Extension: Creative Discovery Tray

Exploring art materials through open-ended creative play

Objective:

Children explore creativity, artistic decision-making, and self-expression through hands-on experimentation with mixed media and open-ended art materials.

Materials:

- Recycled cardboard or paper pieces
- Fabric scraps or ribbon
- Stickers or washi tape
- Glue sticks
- Crayons, markers, or paint sticks
- Buttons, paper tubes, or loose parts
- Tray or basket for organizing materials

Instructions:

1. Arrange the materials in an inviting tray or workspace.
2. Invite children to explore the materials freely.
3. Encourage layering, drawing, arranging, and experimenting.
4. Talk about textures, colors, and creative choices together.
5. Allow children to revisit and continue creating over time.

Infant & Toddler Adaptation:

Offer larger recycled materials, chunky drawing tools, fabric scraps, stickers, and simple collage pieces for children to explore safely together. Model sensory vocabulary, artistic language, and creative experimentation while encouraging children to arrange, layer, stick, and create freely through hands-on process art exploration.

Developmental Connections:

- **Approaches to Learning:** Creativity • Flexible thinking • Curiosity
- **Cognitive:** Artistic exploration • Cause and effect
- **Health & Physical:** Fine motor coordination • Hand strength
- **Social & Emotional:** Confidence • Self-expression • Independent decision-making

Wildflower Art Studio

This week's classroom activities encourage children to explore art as a process of discovery, experimentation, and self-expression. Through texture, color, movement, layering, and open-ended creating, children build creative confidence while developing fine motor skills, flexible thinking, and artistic decision-making through hands-on studio experiences.

Texture Printing Lab

Exploring texture, stamping, and printmaking through process art

Objective:

Children explore texture, pattern, and artistic experimentation by creating prints with open-ended art tools and mixed media materials.

Materials:

- Paint trays or washable paint
- Rollers or brayers
- Cardboard pieces
- Paper or cardstock
- Mesh, bubble wrap, or textured materials
- Sponges or texture tools
- Smocks or table covering

Instructions:

1. Arrange texture tools and paint materials on the table.
2. Invite children to roll, stamp, and press the materials.
3. Encourage children to explore patterns and textures.
4. Talk about the marks and designs children create.
5. Allow children to continue experimenting freely.

Infant & Toddler Adaptation:

Offer larger texture tools, washable paint, rollers, and simple printing materials for children to explore safely together. Model descriptive language about textures, marks, movement, and patterns while encouraging children to press, roll, stamp, and experiment freely through hands-on sensory art exploration.

Developmental Connections:

- **Approaches to Learning:** Persistence • Experimentation • Problem-solving
- **Cognitive:** Pattern recognition • Cause and effect
- **Health & Physical:** Bilateral coordination • Grip strength
- **Social & Emotional:** Independent exploration • Pride in creating

Color Flow Studio

Creating family stories through imaginative small world exploration

Objective:

Children explore color transformation, prediction, and artistic experimentation by blending paints to discover new shades, patterns, and flowing visual effects through hands-on process art exploration.

Materials:

- Washable paint in soft colors
- Paint trays or palettes
- Brushes, droppers, or sponges
- Paper or cardstock
- Cups or small containers
- Smocks or table covering

Instructions:

1. Arrange paint colors and tools with limited objects spaced apart.
2. Invite children to combine and blend colors together.
3. Encourage children to observe how colors change and flow.
4. Talk about shades, movement, and paint patterns during play.
5. Allow children to continue experimenting freely with color combinations.

Infant & Toddler Adaptation:

Offer washable paint, larger brushes, droppers, and simple paint trays for children to explore safely together. Model language about color changes, flowing movement, blending, and artistic experimentation while encouraging children to spread, dab, swirl, and combine paints through hands-on sensory art play.

Developmental Connections:

- **Approaches to Learning:** Exploration • Predicting • Experimentation
- **Cognitive:** Color transformation • Visual comparison
- **Health & Physical:** Hand-eye coordination • Tool control
- **Social & Emotional:** Creative independence • Confidence through discovery

Sculpture & Build Table

Designing open-ended sculptures with recycled and mixed media materials

Objective:

Children explore balance, structure, artistic decision-making, and creative problem-solving by building open-ended 3D sculptures using recycled and loose parts materials.

Materials:

- Cardboard tubes or small boxes
- Recycled materials and loose parts
- Tape or reusable adhesive
- Craft sticks or wooden pieces
- Fabric scraps or textured materials
- Tray or table workspace

Instructions:

1. Arrange building materials with limited objects spaced apart.
2. Invite children to stack, balance, connect, and build freely.
3. Encourage children to test different structures and design ideas.
4. Talk about shapes, balance, height, and creative choices together.
5. Allow children to redesign and continue building over time.

Infant & Toddler Adaptation:

Offer larger recycled materials, cardboard tubes, lightweight boxes, fabric pieces, and simple loose parts for children to explore safely together. Model language about building, balancing, stacking, and connecting while encouraging children to arrange materials, test structures, and experiment through hands-on sculpture play.

Developmental Connections:

- **Approaches to Learning:** Problem-solving • Persistence • Flexible thinking
- **Cognitive:** Spatial awareness • Structural exploration
- **Health & Physical:** Bilateral coordination • Grip strength
- **Social & Emotional:** Confidence in creating • Independent decision-making

Mark-Making Exploration

Exploring movement, lines, and artistic expression through open-ended mark-making

Objective:

Children explore movement, line, rhythm, and artistic expression by experimenting with a variety of mark-making tools and materials through open-ended creative play.

Materials:

- Large paper or butcher paper
- Chunky crayons or oil pastels
- Paintbrushes or markers
- Charcoal sticks or chalk
- Clipboards or floor workspace
- Smocks or table covering

Instructions:

1. Arrange mark-making tools with limited objects spaced apart.
2. Invite children to explore lines, shapes, and repeated marks freely.
3. Encourage children to experiment with movement, pressure, and patterns.
4. Talk about the different marks and motions children create.
5. Allow children to continue layering and exploring over time.

Infant & Toddler Adaptation:

Offer chunky crayons, washable markers, large paper, and simple mark-making tools for children to explore safely together. Model language about lines, movement, pressure, and patterns while encouraging children to scribble, swipe, dot, and create freely through hands-on artistic exploration.

Developmental Connections:

- **Approaches to Learning:** Exploration • Persistence • Creative expression
- **Cognitive:** Pattern awareness • Visual experimentation
- **Health & Physical:** Wrist control • Grip development
- **Social & Emotional:** Self-expression • Confidence through creating

Layered Creation Boards

Exploring layering, composition, and artistic decision-making through collage art

Objective:

Children explore composition, layering, texture, and creative decision-making by arranging and combining mixed media materials into open-ended collage creations.

Materials:

- Cardboard or sturdy paper bases
- Tissue paper or textured paper scraps
- Fabric pieces or ribbon
- Glue sticks or tape
- Natural loose parts or recycled materials
- Markers, crayons, or paint sticks

Instructions:

1. Arrange collage materials with limited objects spaced apart.
2. Invite children to explore layering, arranging, and combining materials.
3. Encourage children to compare textures, shapes, and placement choices.
4. Talk about patterns, balance, and creative ideas during the process.
5. Allow children to continue redesigning and adding new layers over time.

Infant & Toddler Adaptation:

Offer larger collage materials, textured paper, fabric scraps, stickers, and glue tools for children to explore safely together. Model language about texture, layering, shapes, and artistic choices while encouraging children to stick, arrange, overlap, and experiment through hands-on collage exploration.

Developmental Connections:

- **Approaches to Learning:** Decision-making • Flexible thinking • Planning
- **Cognitive:** Spatial arrangement • Texture comparison
- **Health & Physical:** Finger isolation • Hand-eye coordination
- **Social & Emotional:** Creative independence • Pride in creating

Facilitator Focus: Storybook Families

- ✨ **Theme** *Children explore creative confidence, artistic decision-making, and self-expression through open-ended process art experiences using mixed media, recycled materials, texture tools, and flexible studio invitations.*



🌸 Overview

This week's activities encourage children to focus on the process of creating rather than a finished product. Through printing, layering, blending, building, and mark-making, children experiment with materials, make creative choices, describe their ideas, and build confidence through hands-on artistic exploration.



🌱 Facilitator Tips

- Encourage experimentation and creative risk-taking during art experiences
- Offer open-ended materials without modeling a "correct" final product
- Use descriptive language about textures, colors, shapes, and artistic choices
- Allow children to revisit, redesign, and continue projects over time
- Celebrate process, exploration, and creative thinking rather than perfection



🌻 Vocabulary to Emphasize

texture • layer • blend • pattern • print • balance • design • arrange • swirl • collage • sculpture • mark-making

Short Sentence Prompts (for modeling language):

- "What do you notice about the colors?"
- "How did you create that texture?"
- "What could you try next?"

💡 **Developmental Connections (WMEELS Alignment)**

🧠 **Approaches to Learning:**

- Children build creativity, persistence, flexible thinking, experimentation, and problem-solving skills through open-ended artistic exploration and hands-on material discovery.

🧠 **Cognition & General Knowledge:**

- Children build memory recall, sequencing, symbolic thinking, and connections between family experiences, routines, stories, and shared traditions.

💪 **Health & Physical Development:**

- Children strengthen grip strength, bilateral coordination, hand-eye coordination, tool control, wrist stability, and fine motor development through painting, layering, building, and mark-making activities.

🦜 **Language & Literacy Development:**

- Children develop descriptive vocabulary, artistic communication, storytelling, observation skills, and expressive language while discussing materials, creative choices, artistic processes, and visual ideas.

❤️ **Social & Emotional Development:**

- Children build confidence, independence, emotional expression, creative identity, and cooperative interaction through open-ended artistic exploration and collaborative creative experiences.



✨ **Reflection for Educators**

- How did children demonstrate creativity, problem-solving, or flexible thinking during the activities?
- Which materials or invitations encouraged the most meaningful exploration and communication?
- How did the environment support children's confidence, independence, and artistic decision-making?

