

Today's Topics: Art

Overview and Things to Know:

Kids seem to naturally be able to create. "Research shows that art activities develop brain capacity in early childhood. Art engages children's senses in openended play and supports the development of cognitive, socialemotional and multisensory skills."¹

Art helps children learn about the world, practice planning, experimenting, and problem solving. Art gives kids chances to make decisions, and to learn from the experience of making choices about their art work. It also gives them ways to express how they think and feel.

Here are some ways you can help your child to build language skills through art:

- Ask them open-ended questions
- Write down what they say about their work
- Use describing words like straight, curvy, rounded, and wavy
- Describe what the art looks like, and then let them tell you about their work
- Ask questions about their process

Using art materials helps young children develop the fine motor skills they will need to hold pens and pencils and write.

Activities We Did:

- We danced with scarves to an art song to get our minds and bodies ready to create!
- We made a piece of art together, exploring art concepts like line, shape, composition, and negative space while we practiced taking turns and making decisions.
- Stations that focused on different art related themes.
- We painted with tempera paint sticks, to practice open-ended art exploration and build fine motor skills.

Things to Try at Home:

- Let your child practice taking pictures on a disposable, digital, or camera phone. Talk to your child about making a photograph—what is included and what is cut out through the choice of the photographer?
- Visit one of Fort Worth's free art museums! Talk about the art together. <https://whichmuseum.com/place/fort-worth-2730/free>

Songs to Listen to:

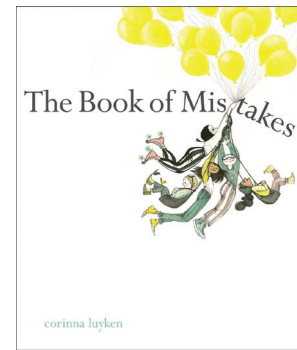
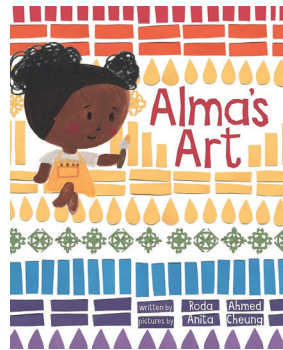
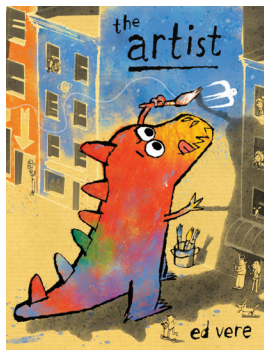
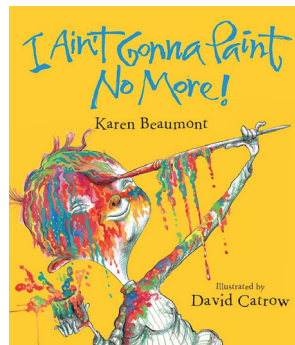
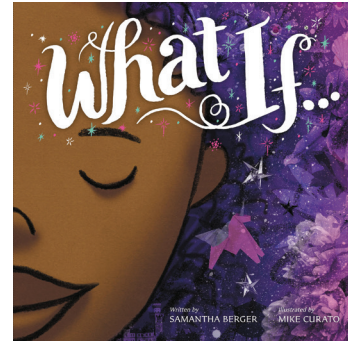
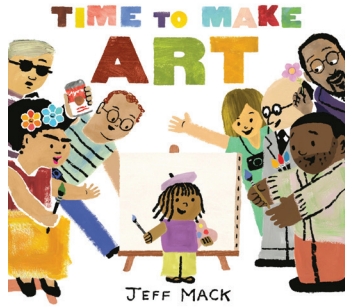
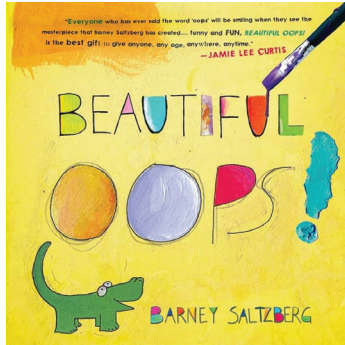
- Painting Party by the Beanies
- The Art Supplies Song by The Juicebox Jukebox
- "Art Songs!" album by Scratch Garden

If You Want to Dive Deeper:

- <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/winter2023/what-will-we-make>
- This one is about the arts in a wider sense: <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/arts-in-early-childhood-dec2015-rev.pdf>

Books to Check Out

For the Pre-Kindergartners



For the Grownups

