



Quotes from the field with tips for parents and families

"Allow her to use art as a form of communication."

Here's how . . .

Communication is more than talk and conversation. Art includes many different ways to support your child's thinking, imagining, creating, and communicating. Provide many opportunities for your child to express herself through the creative arts. Art can offer open-ended experiences in music, movement and drama as well as the visual arts. For example, provide an environment that supports expression through movement and drama. Use open-ended props like scarves and musical instruments. Experiences in moving to musical rhythms and the use of props can encourage your child's imaginative thinking and self-expression.

Why is this important?

Art experiences invite children to listen observe, move, solve problems, and share their ideas with parents, peers, and others. Active involvement in the creative arts stimulates brain connections that support children's learning. Research demonstrates that when creativity is developed at an early age, its benefits are continual and are transferred to many intellectual tasks (Arts Education Partnership 2000)¹. Arts are inclusive of children from diverse languages and cultures and with differing abilities.



Your child's responses to open-ended art experiences can be a window into her thinking and level of understanding. This helps you support your child's development and growth in all areas.

¹ Hansen, L.E. 2008. Parents as partners in arts education. *Young Children* 63 (6): 90-95.