

Art in Preschool

Children at Pierce Preschool have many different art experiences during their day. Young children are most successful when they experiment with “Open-ended Art” activities. Open-ended art activities involve giving children the chance to explore many different materials and make their own decisions about what they are creating, which allows individual creativity and self-expression. It emphasizes the process of working with materials rather than the product, or end result. During open-ended art, children will not be duplicating a master example of a teacher’s crafted piece of artwork. There are many benefits to participating in this kind of art experience:

- Children will not experience feelings of frustration and discouragement, which come from trying to recreate a model that may not be at all meaningful to them.
- Children experience a feeling of success, pride and sense of self.
- Children use their own thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Children take initiative and are in charge of their own creation.
- Children are given opportunities to be creative.
- Children’s art is individual.
- Children’s fine motor skills are built using different materials and tools.

Materials:

We use a variety of fun materials in our art experiences (and we love to get messy!):

- paint
- paper
- glue
- glitter
- tape
- feathers
- string
- cloth
- scrap materials
- shells
- jewels & sequins
- cotton balls
- pom poms
- noodles
- chalk
- crayons
- markers
- scissors
- different painting tools
- recycled materials

Parent reaction is so important!

The important thing to remember as you discover their art treasures in their cubbies, or proudly displayed on our walls, is to celebrate their attempts. Often young children’s art is not recognizable as a product to adults but children love to talk to you about the process of how they made their masterpiece. Instead of asking them ‘what’ they made, ask them how they made it. A simple phrase, “tell me about your project” is a great conversation starter! Comment on the use of colors or combinations of materials. You might be surprised to hear how much thought and effort went into the process of creating something so unique! Show them you are proud by displaying their work at home or sharing it with others.