

Process Art
Experiences for Young
Children

Dr. Laurel Bongiorno

Characteristics of Process-Focused Art Experiences

- No step-by-step instructions
- No sample to follow
- No right or wrong
- It's relaxing and calming
- It's entirely the child's own work
- The art experience is the child's choice
- Ideas are not readily available online

Characteristics of Product-Focused Art Experiences

- Children have instructions to follow
- There's a teacher-created sample
- There's a right and wrong way to do art
- There's a finished product in the teacher's mind
- The children's finished art all looks the same
- The children experience frustration
- The teacher might "fix mistakes"
- The whole class did the art at the same time
- Patterns and examples are easily available online

Process Art Ideas

Easel Painting

water Colors

Clay

Finger Painting

Painting with Unusual items (toothbrushes, paint rollers, potato mashers)

Stamping with sponges

Spin Art

weaving

Drawing

Homemade Dough

Collaging (tissue paper, recycled materials)

what do children learn through process-focused art?

- Social and Emotional (relax, focus, express feelings, feel successful)
- Language and Literacy (discuss art, use vocabulary, add print, dictate)
- Cognitive (children compare, predict, plan, and problem-solve)
- Physical (small motor skills painting, writing, gluing, kneading)

Literacy and Language Development

- Vocabulary: Purple, yellow, smooth, rough, colorful, soft, weave
- Writing while drawing, playing with shaving creme, painting
- Conversation with children or teachers
- Language of cooperation
- Dictate if child desires (but not ON their art -- think museum)
- Ask open-ended questions
- Talk about the process

Tips for Process...

- Approach art like open-ended play
- Make art a joyful experience - more paint, more colors, say yes
- Provide plenty of time - and open time, not scheduled time for all
- Let children come and go from the art experience
- Notice and comment about what you see (describe or tell how it makes you feel)
- Offer new and interesting materials
- Play music in the background
- Take art materials outside in natural light
- Display children's books with artful illustrations
- Let the children decide what to do with their art
- Remember, it's the children's art -- not yours

Taking Action

what is one thing you will take from today that you will bring back?

Resources

- Spotlight on Young Children and the Creative Arts, NAEYC
- More Than Painting: Preschool and Kindergarten: Exploring the wonders of Art, Sally Moomaw and Brenda Hieronymus
- The Creative Arts: A Process Approach for Teachers and Children, Linda Carol Edwards
- www.ooeygoeey.com/handouts/art.pdf

Thank You

Don't hesitate to contact me at Bongiorno@Champlain.edu