



Emotional Development – The Art Studio

Parents need to fill a child's bucket of self esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes to drain it dry. – Alvin Price



What are children learning in The Art Studio?

Some of the most important things that preschool children learn are how to interact with other children and adults, and how to express their own feelings in socially constructive ways. Through sensory experiences and art projects in The Art Studio, children practice taking another's perspective; cooperating as they share tools; and negotiating roles and material use.

Consider these links between learning and emotional development:

- Children develop initiative by choosing their own art activities, materials, and letting their imaginations lead the design and process.
- When children are encouraged to try new tasks, they develop confidence and a willingness to take risks.
- Even if all a child is doing is playing next to another, he or she is learning social interaction, sharing, and patience.

What can I do to support my child's emotional development?

- Show interest in what your child is doing and gear your comments and assistance to follow his or her direction.
- Encourage your child to express his or her feelings through art, and emphasize the process over the product.
- Give your child choices within the structure of an activity. For example, let him or her choose the colors, the shapes, or the art tools to use.

More resources:

Online activities:

<http://pbskids.org/arthur/index.html>

First Art: Art Experiences for Toddlers and Twos, by MaryAnn F. Kohl, Renee Ramsey, and Dana Bowman, Gryphon House 2002

Simply Washable Tempera Paint, available at www.discountschoolsupply.com

Children's paint smocks are available in our Museum gift store and at www.mimithesardine.com



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