

Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time® at Home

Fun with Art

What We're Learning

When adults think about making art, we often think about product art. We focus on what the end product will look like—something an adult can recognize. Usually, there is a lot of preparation on the part of the adult and a lot of instructions while the art is happening. When children think about art, it can be something totally different! Through their eyes, the process is very important. Process art focuses more on the experience. The product might not look like anything special to an adult. That's okay! Process art gives the child and adult more time to talk while creating. Relax knowing that there isn't a right or wrong way to create process art.

- Process Art = child-led focus on the process to create art
- Product Art = adult-led focus on the end product



Parents, Did You Know . . .

Art may be messy. Make sure children are in play clothes because they might get messy. When getting ready to make process art, choose an area that is okay to get a little messy, too. If the space is in your home, prepare it so clean up is easy. Use something like old newspapers or cardboard to protect the surface you will be creating on. This way, you don't have to worry about making a mess. Outside is always a good place to create art, too!

Together Time

After you prepare the space, find materials to use. Art materials are all around us. Use what you have around the house or in nature. They often look like something we would recycle like a box, plastic container, or bottle cap. Items found outside are great for making art also—such as sticks, rocks, shells, acorns, or seeds.

Add some tape and scissors and you have an art project in the making! Paint can be modified to change the process art experience. Try adding paint to glue or adding salt, flour, shaving cream, or corn starch to paint. Experiment with different combinations of art supplies to create a new process art experience.

Sorting for Next Time

Goal: Find, sort, store and label materials for future art projects.

Once you start making process art you won't want to stop! As you gather materials, you can sort them. You can store them in containers you have or make. You can label them for future projects.



- You can sort materials by type, size, color, texture, or shape.
- To store materials, you can reuse a cup, a plastic container, cardboard box, or can. Be sure the containers are clean and have no sharp edges.
- This is a great time to work with your child to write the labels. Children can begin to sound out words and eventually write. This is just one way you can add a literacy experience to process art.



Hints for Success

- When creating art together, ask open ended questions like:
 - o Tell me about what you made.
 - o Where did you get your idea?
 - o How did you . . . make these lines?
 - decide on these colors?
 - create that shape?
- Encourage children to add to their answers or use the artwork as a starting point for telling a story. Ask children to tell you what they made and elaborate on the story that goes with it.
 - o Can you tell me a story about your work?
- Ask clarifying questions to show you are interested. This sparks conversation and keeps it going.
- Ask follow-up questions to one-word answers.

Reflections and Next Steps

As you and your child spend more time creating art, think about:

- how you can display their artwork in your home.
- how your child can access the art materials.
- how your child can clean up the space when they are done.
- how you can be on the lookout for art materials in your world.