



NATIONAL CENTER ON

Early Childhood Health and Wellness

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2017: Digital Art Exhibition

Call for Artwork!

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2017 will be observed by more than 150 national organizations and 1,100 communities across the country on May 4, 2017. Awareness Day 2017 will focus on the importance of integrating children's mental, emotional, and physical health. During the event, best practices in communication between behavioral health providers, primary care, youth, and families, as well as evidence-based community programs, will be showcased.

In support of Awareness Day 2017, the Office of Head Start (OHS), the American Art Therapy Association (AATA), and Youth M.O.V.E. National are reaching out through their networks to children, youth, and young adults ages 3–25 and inviting them to create artwork addressing the theme: **"I am a work of art."** The digital art exhibition will celebrate the important role of art and creativity in mental health and wellness. It also emphasizes a holistic view of children's health.

All artwork submitted should be made solely by the children and youth specifically for this exhibit. It should be based on the exhibit theme, **"I am a work of art."** All the artwork will be combined into a national digital art collection, which will be available to view on the [AATA website](#) in April and May 2017. In addition, selected pieces from the collection will be showcased during the national event in Washington, DC.

Criteria for Art Submissions

Please ask the artist to make original artwork based on the **"I am a work of art"** theme. For young children, this could be pictures of feelings. The artwork may even emphasize the importance of emotional development. Any art media may be used. The artwork should be photographed and of excellent digital quality. It would be ideal to have it saved as a JPEG, between 72 and 120 dots per inch (dpi). Artwork will be included in an online exhibit to be run from April through May 2017.

How to Submit

Artwork should be submitted digitally to: info@arttherapy.org

The submission deadline is **Feb. 6, 2017**.

Please note that AATA, Youth M.O.V.E. National, and OHS reserve the right to include artwork in the exhibit at their discretion.