

What Difference Do the Arts Make in Education?

A 2025 research-driven publication, *Snapshots of Arts Education in Childhood and Adolescence: Access and Outcomes*, re-affirms what we have learned from many other previous studies—namely, that arts education is closely linked with positive academic outcomes and social and emotional development. Here's a sample finding: at-home arts engagement of toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarteners was positively correlated with a variety of social-emotional attributes and cognitive outcomes.

<https://www.arts.gov/impact/research/publications/snapshots-arts-education-childhood-and-adolescence>

Encouraging the Arts at Home

As you read above, at-home arts engagement can yield significant learning and development benefits. This article shares examples of how to incorporate art at home without being an artist or buying expensive art supplies. Learn how at [tyc_16-2_winter2023_interactivefull_9.pdf](#)

Using Process Art to Spark Preschoolers' Development

Many early childhood art projects are focused on a product that children produce based on following directions or mimicking a sample. This article focuses on process art, an approach in which educators provide an array of materials and the time/space to engage freely with them. Take a look to learn more about how a process art approach can support expressive language development, nurture social and emotional learning, and encourage thinking skills. [What Will We Make? Using Process Art to Spark Preschoolers' Development | NAEYC](#)

The Shape of Our heARTs

Check out this website for ways in which children can mold, manipulate, glue, tape stack, arrange, pattern, color, or imagine 3D art. You'll discover strategies that encourage children to explore their senses, stretch their fine motor skills, and use their creativity. [The Shape of Our heARTs | HeadStart.gov](#)

One Way to Integrate Music, Drama, Dance, and Learning

This article highlights an approach for integrating the arts into curriculum to help young children explore and learn. [Integrating Music, Drama, and Dance Helps Children Explore and Learn | NAEYC](#)

Creating Inclusive Classrooms Using Musical Learning and Play

Here's the focus of this archived webinar: Integrating age-appropriate, whole-group musical learning and play in ways that all children can engage appropriately while avoiding sensory overload and other behaviors that lead to isolating a child from the group. Take a look at

[Creating an Inclusive Early Childhood Classroom Using Musical Learning and Play - edWeb](#)

The Power of Dance, Theater, Music, and Puppetry to Support Learning

Each section of the [Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts](#) website offers resources for integrating the arts across learning opportunities. One section highlights the benefits of arts integration. Another will give you access to a searchable resource library, with offerings in English and Spanish. Take a look at [Institute](#)

Helping Children Appreciate Culture Through Art

This article shares the significance of exposing children to art from diverse backgrounds as a mechanism for shaping their perspectives, fostering empathy, and embracing cultural differences. [Teaching Children about Diversity and Culture Through Art: 10 Fun Ways](#)

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features readily available and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3 and their families. Resources available in Spanish are [highlighted](#). Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. Past issues are archived at [Natural Resources - Google Drive](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu