Art Activities

Inspired by FAM’s permanent collection

How to use this resource:

• Each activity has two pages, an introduction page followed by an instructions page.
• Choose an activity, read through the instructions, and gather the suggested art materials.
• To start the project, look carefully look at the images together. Discuss your reactions to them. Refer to the questions or hints provided under Looking for Inspiration in each activity.
• Remind everyone participating: 1.) Take proper care of art materials (use paint brushes gently and take turns) and 2.) Cleaning up is part of making art.

Basic Materials Needed for the art activities:

For all of the art activities: A table or floor space covered by newspaper, plastic, or cardboard. Some activities may require a larger space or access to a window or sunlight. A damp sponge is handy for quickly cleaning up paint spills.

Drawing materials: Pencils, colored pencils, crayons, oil pastels, or markers. Regular white paper (like copier paper) or drawing paper.

Painting materials:
• Watercolor (dry sets or liquid form,) acrylic paints, or liquid food coloring mixed with a little bit of dish detergent. Colors like red, yellow, blue, black and white, or others.
• Heavy white paper (like inexpensive watercolor paper), cardstock, or lightweight cardboard.
• Brushes of different sizes, with flat and/or rounded bristles.
• A container to hold clean water.
• Paper towels or a rag.

Sculpting materials: Clay, paper clay, plasticine, or air-dry clay like Model magic. (Air-dry clay is not recommended for all projects because it is difficult to join pieces of it together.) Papier maché (newspaper or scrap paper), white glue or glue gun. Lightweight cardboard. Pipe cleaners.

Collage materials: Old magazines, patterned paper, wrapping paper, tissue paper, construction paper, fabric scraps, yarn or string, sequins, beads, or buttons, cardstock or lightweight cardboard. Scissors. White glue or Modge Podge. Paint brush for applying glue.

Other: Camera or cell phone, printer, dress-up clothes