

Ready to Read

An Early Literacy Newsletter

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Sharing Art and Artistic Styles with Preschoolers



One of the wonderful things about working with young children is the fact that they have no inhibitions about their talents. Using art in the preschool setting takes advantage of this unbridled

self-confidence and enables preschoolers to benefit from this opportunity. Art can be beneficial in many ways: it helps stimulate the imagination; it is calming; it works on small motor skills; and it is a sensory experience.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), process-

focused art experiences involves no step-by-step instructions or sample. Instead, the focus is on the experience and on exploration of techniques, tools and materials. Most importantly, there is no wrong way. Art can become a literacy experience by asking children to describe their artwork and having the parent/teacher write down their words.

Showing books that use unique illustrations in various types of artwork give children an opportunity to explore these mediums. When introducing these books, take time to discuss the type of art in each. This will add to the children's working vocabulary and will help them describe their artwork to you.

- written by Susie Miller, Early Literacy Assistant

Library Books About Art

Find these and many other art-related stories at your neighborhood library branch.

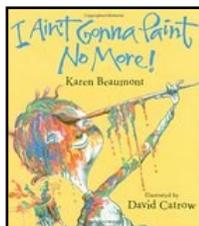
Books Depicting Art in Process

Andrew Draws by David McPhail
Andrew draws and draws and draws.

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!

by Karen Beaumont

A madcap painting romp finds a boy covered head-to-toe in paint—and then he finds himself in the tub.

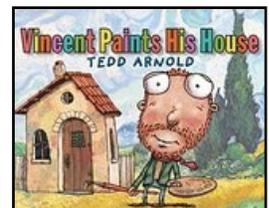


My Dog Thinks I'm a Genius by Harriet Ziefert

A round-headed kid with pencil-hatched hair has to paint and draw every day.

Vincent Paints His House by Tedd Arnold

Vincent's friends disagree on how he should paint his house, so he comes up with a colorful solution.



The White Book by Silvia Borando

A child goes wild with buckets of paint in this wordless book.

Books Depicting Artistic Styles

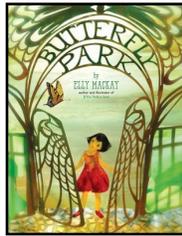
Beastly Verse by Joohee Yoon

This anthology of 16 animal poems for children is illustrated by the graphic artist JooHee Yoon.

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"Library Books About Art" continued from page 1

Butterfly Park by Elly MacKay
Using paper collage and diorama constructs, a young girl discovers a vacant park next door to her new house that is intended for butterflies.



Crow Made a Friend by Margaret Peot
Inventive Crow literally makes a friend, propping up sticks into a graceful, birdlike shape and adding leaves for wings and a crabapple head.

A Good Day by Kevin Henkes
Pastel-hued watercolor and ink illustrations show a bird, a fox, a dog and a squirrel overcome minor setbacks to have a very good day.

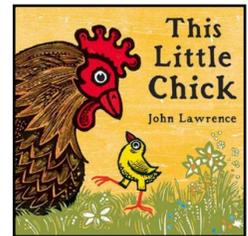
Green by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
In lush paintings outfitted with cleverly positioned die cuts, this picture book explores the color green.

The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster
Mixed-media illustrations highlight the kitchen window at Nanna and Poppy's that, for one little girl, is a magic gateway. Everything important happens near it, through it or beyond it.

The House in the Night by Susan Marie Swanson
Scratchboard illustrations explore the light that makes a house in the night a home filled with light.

Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho
Cut paper and ink illustrations use varied textures to feature a lullaby that asks animals to be quiet and not disturb the sleeping baby.

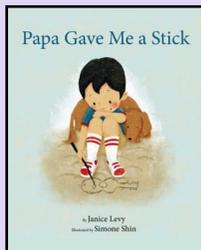
This Little Chick by John Lawrence
Watercolor washes and printed wood textures depict a chick showing that he can make the sounds of the animals in his neighborhood.



There's a Cow in the Cabbage Patch by Clare Beaton
Using cut-and-sew illustrations, this picture book shows how all the animals in this mixed-up farmyard are out of place, but when dinnertime comes around, suddenly they are all back where they belong.

Tiptoe Tapirs by Hanmin Kim
Watercolor, ink and marker pen illustrations show Tapir and Little Tapir as the quietest creatures in the jungle. When a leopard is threatened by a hunter, they teach him how to move with a very soft step.

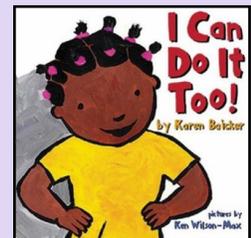
Diversity Books of the Month



Papa Gave Me a Stick by Janice Levy
After seeing a mariachi band, Antonio wants a guitar of his own. His father cannot afford one and gives Antonio a stick, instead, which leads Antonio to perform a series of good deeds, each of which provides a seemingly useless reward.

This book highlights Hispanic culture and vocabulary. It includes a glossary of Spanish terms with phonetic pronunciations. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

I Can Do It Too! by Karen Baicker
Supported by her family, an African American girl is self confident about what she can do and in turn supports a younger family member.



This book features an African American family using simple rhyming text, bold illustrations and themes that will appeal to young children. *Appropriate for ages 2-4*

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