



Art is Smart

Welcome to an exciting year of hands-on learning with your child!

This year, your child will participate in a special art program called "Invitation to Create" throughout the Mother Goose Time curriculum. This is a research-based system that embraces a **constructivist** approach to teaching and supports the highest standard of early learning research. There is significant data supporting its positive impacts, including children learning and constructing knowledge by actively investigating and problem-solving. The National

Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and state education departments are now requiring licensed programs to implement this model of teaching in order to qualify for the **highest quality ratings.**

When your child brings home his art, you might initially only see a messy collage of materials covered in globs of paint and flower petals. But if you look a little closer at this abstract masterpiece, you can see the complex

problem-solving and deep learning that happened during the process of its creation. This process is key to your child's development of what scientists are considering some of the most **critical 21st Century Skills** including:

- **Collaboration and teamwork**
- **Creativity and imagination**
- **Critical thinking and problem-solving**
- **Creative and innovative practice**

Here are a few questions to ask your child or teacher for evidence of the learning that happens while your child creates:

Can you tell me more about this [name a used supply]? Why did you put that on your design?

How did you make this artwork?

- What did you do first? Did you cut or glue first?
- What happened when you dipped the paintbrush in more than one color, squeezed the eyedropper, etc.?

What did you see or learn today that made you want to create this?

- Did you look at a photo when you made this? What was interesting about the photo? How did you include this detail in your work?
- What else did you learn during the day about [name the topic of the photo, such as rabbits, frogs, or flowers]?

How did you feel when you created your art?

- What is your favorite part of your art? Why?
- Who else was making art next to you? What did you talk about while you both created?



An "Invitation to Create" is an invitation for your child to communicate his ideas visually. By asking questions, you help your child build his communication skills. This conversation also helps him know that you see the value and beauty in his work.

Your child's brain is developing rapidly and he may not yet have the words to fully express the complexity of what he understands and thinks. But art is a window into the mind. Use the art he brings home as a way to understand how he is making meaning and gaining knowledge from all the sights and sounds he experiences in a day.

For more information, visit us online or call one of our curriculum specialists.
www.mothersgoosetime.com or 800-523-6933