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## A Letter to Families About Art

Dear Families,

Art is an important part of my program. I provide children with a variety of art experiences every day. Drawing, painting, pasting, molding, and constructing are enjoyable, and they provide very important opportunities for learning. As they explore art materials, children express their ideas and feelings, improve their eye-hand coordination, learn to name colors and describe textures, and feel proud of their creative efforts.

While children are engaged in art activities, I talk with them about what they are doing. I ask questions that encourage them to think about their ideas, express their feelings, and experiment with the tools and materials.

The children and I are primarily interested in creative processes. I support your child's confidence by saying such things as "Tell me about your picture," instead of asking something like "Is that a house?" Think how a child would feel if his picture weren't one of a house!

Here are some ideas for exploring art with your child at home:

Children love to bring their artwork home to share with you. Take time to talk with your child about his or her art. Comment on the colors and the different lines, shapes, and patterns. Here are some questions you might ask your child:

- How did you get the pieces of crepe paper to stick to the construction paper?
- How did you decide what colors to use in your painting?
- What do you like best about your sculpture?
- Where should we hang your mobile so that we can all enjoy it?

You can also help your child appreciate other artwork. When you look at books together, talk about the illustrations with your child. Discuss the art in your home, too.

Your child can explore art in almost any room. You might designate a kitchen or living room drawer as an art drawer, or you might use a bookshelf or sturdy cardboard box. Include crayons; water-based markers; paper; a pair of child-sized, blunt-edged scissors; glue; and a container with a variety of collage materials. Children don't need coloring books. With their own imaginations and your support, their artistic talents will flourish.

Sincerely,

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