

CHILDREN'S ART

PRODUCT VS PROCESS

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

As a parent we want to see those cute hand print animals or the pre-cut activities that require the children to glue items into the correct spots. However, what is more important to children's development: the item or the trial?

This answer can be complicated because BOTH can be important to creating healthy individuals. However, to help children develop their creative confidence FIRST we need to focus on the process, of art making.

The process of art making is open-ended and self-driven. We need to experience what focuses on understanding, creating, and exploring different kinds of materials, tools, and techniques. In a process driven and open-ended art making activity there are NO step-by-step instructions, children can create anything!

Children engage in process art because they are self-motivated to create because of the sensory, emotional, and playful experience art provides them. If children start out exploring art materials to better understand and interact with their world, gain independence, develop fine motor skills, foster self-confidence and in time, children will begin to value the product, in the meantime, LET THEM CREATE!



Product

Key Factors

- DON'T be afraid of mess
- Allow for the exploration of LOTS of materials
- DON'T worry about "What it is?"
- There isn't a right or wrong way to create/make something
- Hang up the child's work for display – they will feel proud



Process

Remember if it takes you more time to prepare the art activity than the children spend completing the activity, it's a craft. Ask yourself if the value is in providing a cute final product or in supporting self expression in children. Consider what the children will do rather than what they will make.