

BabyTalks: Bang! Squish! Leap! Supporting the A in STEAM with Infants and Toddlers

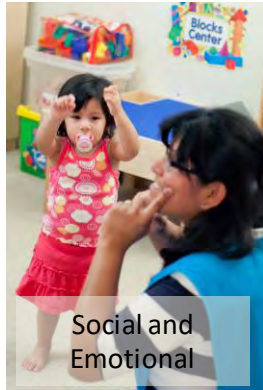
Learning Objective #1 Explore how integrating the arts into activities supports general school readiness across ELOF domains.

The arts support development across domains and engaging with the arts helps children build key school readiness skills



Physical

From the fine motor skills it takes to use a marker to the big body movement required for dance, the arts support physical development.



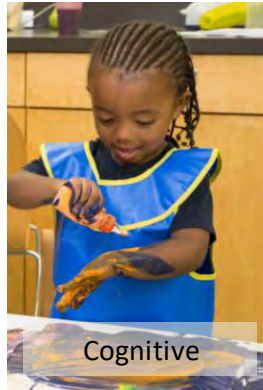
Social and Emotional

Through song, dance, drawing and painting, children learn how to relate to each other and themselves and how to better express their emotions.



Language and Communication

Songs and music help children build language skills. Drawing and looking at pictures helps children understand symbols, an early literacy skill.



Cognitive

Art projects provide opportunities for children to experiment and solve problems, while music helps children learn math skills like pattern detection.



Approaches to Learning

Art experiences allow children to express and explore their creativity and initiative, while also building key skills like persistence and focus.

Learning Objective #2: Identify four key environmental elements that support learning through the arts.

Accessible

Art materials should be easy to access and explore, even for infants and toddlers. Think about materials that are safe and durable, like drums or scarves for waving.

Open-ended

While craft projects where every child creates the same thing have their place, ensure that children have lots of opportunities for free creative expression.

Meaningful

The arts provide a wonderful opportunity for children to explore their own identities by engaging with activities that are meaningful and culturally relevant.

Developmentally Appropriate

Art experiences for infants and toddlers should be simple and engaging. Look for activities that involve the senses and allow for movement and active engagement.

Learning Objective #3: Create activities and strategies for scaffolding and supporting children's learning and development through the arts.

There are many ways to support learning during arts experiences. Here are a few ideas:



Creating art with a buddy helps young children practice working together and building relationships.



Consider creating a station for musical experimentation and exploration.



Use songs with dance movements to help children connect words to their meaning.

Resources and Support:

- Art and Storybooks: Ideas from STEAM: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/teacher-time-series/art-storybooks-ideas-steam>
- Understanding STEAM and How Children Use It: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/understanding-steam-how-children-use-it>
- News You Can Use:
 - Music Part One: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum/article/news-you-can-use-music-part-1>
 - Music Part Two: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum/article/news-you-can-use-music-part-2>
- Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF): <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach/elof>
- ELOF2GO Mobile App: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/elof2go-mobile-app>
- ELOF Effective Practice Guides: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/effective-practice-guides>
- Front Porch Webinar Series: The Role of Music in Children's Development: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/role-music-childrens-development>
- Front Porch Webinar Series: Promoting Creativity in Early Childhood Classrooms: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/promoting-creativity-early-childhood-classrooms>
- When Children Ask "Why?" STEAM Sharpens Their Inquiry Skills: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/teacher-time-series/when-children-ask-why-steam-sharpens-their-inquiry-skills>
- Classroom Visuals & Supports: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/children-disabilities/article/classroom-visuals-supports>
- Head Start Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness Resource Catalogue (Volume 2): Native and Heritage Language Preservation, Revitalization, and Maintenance (Second Edition): <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/fcp/docs/resource-catalogue-main-book-4.pdf>
- Planned Language Approach (many resources within PLA, but a few highlighted below): <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/planned-language-approach>
 - Tip Sheet - Creating Environments That Include Children's Home Languages and Cultures: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/dll-creating-environments.pdf>
 - Tip Sheet - Including Children's Home Languages and Cultures: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/dll-childrens-home-languages.pdf>
 - Teacher Guide - Selecting Culturally Appropriate Children's Books in Languages Other Than English: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/select-cultural-childrens-books-non-english-eng.pdf>