

# Great Resources to Inspire Process Based Art

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## BLOGS AND WEBSITES ON PROCESS BASED ART APPROACHES

Artful Parent

Bev Bos

Child's Play Music

Explorations Early Learning

Let the Children Play Facebook Page

Magic Onions

Make Zine, Craft Zine, and the Makers Movement

Ooey Goey

Pinterest: Search Process Art

Play at Home Mom

Process Art with Maryann Kohl Facebook Group

Rebecca and Andrew Facebook Page

Red Ted Art

Reggio Children Inspired Facebook Page

Teacher Tom

Tinkerlab

## SOURCES FOR MATERIALS

**Discount School Supply:** Huge range of art supplies at affordable prices. Enter the word museum in discount code line for 15% off.

**Ebay:** We often begin here when sourcing bulk supplies. We order everything from corks to micro buzzers for toothbrush robots to acorns from ebay.

**Explorations Early Learning:** Whimsical objects for exploration created by a person passionate about play. We love the magnetic ramps! Toy of the month club is a great way to introduce new items into your space.

**KODO Kids:** Items to invite creative play: Ramps, curved boards, slurry chutes, and so much more. We often go to the site for inspiration and then source our own supplies for half the price.

**Nasco Educational Supplies:** Higher quality art materials for deeper exploration of mediums.

**RAFT: Resource Area for Teaching:** Wonderful kits and recycled pieces from local industry. Sacramento and Bay Area branches.

## TIPS TO STARTING A PROCESS BASED ART PROGRAM

### **Rule 1: Develop existing staff. Don't waste lots of money on "experts and artists."**

- Identify the staff person who is great at building relationships.
- Play to your staff's strengths.
- Offer training to develop workshop leaders: Music Together, Bev Bos Conference, ELF events
- Allot staff time to develop workshops and get supplies. Curriculum developer may be different than workshop leader.

### **Rule 2: Offer a maker's space regularly to your community of families.**

- 10AM is our most successful time to reach families with babies. 4PM and weekends are favorites to get elementary aged children to events.
- Allow lots of time for your program to develop momentum. Word of mouth will drive its success as parents begin raving about your program in online parent groups.
- Run the program with the same teacher so that relationships develop. A teacher that can connect with children and caregivers will develop a true following and a community will form.

### **Rule 3: Promote your program wisely.**

- Profile with photos on your Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter page of the children engaged in activities. Parents will share photos and spread the word. Parent groups on social media can work wonders!
- Promote by highlighting that week's project with a photo of the project and, if possible, a child creating it. Book titles and teacher photos do not bring people in!
- List your events separately on free community calendars as well.

### **Rule 4: Stick with process art**

- Spend 2 minutes at opening highlighting how the activity ties into development or learning. Spend 2 minutes empowering caregivers as needed to facilitate the process.
- Process art will allow you to accommodate crowd swells as well as low turnout. Supplies are easily reused.
- Process art allow will accommodate a huge range of ages and attention levels.
- Process art partners well with story times. Find a process art that loosely connects to your story and set up a buffet of supplies to explore.

### **Rule 5: Get ahead!**

- Start a Pinterest Board and pin 30 activities right away. Consider making it public.
- Stock up on standard process art supplies: paint, brushes, paper, sensory items, tarps...
- Create a binder profiling 25 projects and collect the supplies to tackle them.
- Pick 1 or 2 more ambitious play elements to create each year. For example, add a magnetic ramp wall one year. Add a puppet theater the next.
- Start with a 30 minute weekly group. Each week, your confidence and your community will grow.
- The joy of process based art lies in the fact that there is little frustration since you can appeal to a range of ages and abilities yet never need to be directing a large group through it all.