

# Creative Arts

## at Gretchen's House

**We believe** that the best creative art experiences for young children emphasize *process* over *product*. When children are able to express themselves creatively, they develop healthy self-esteem.

### **At our centers, you will find:**

- ▶ Art stations that allow children to select media and tools, and create messy masterpieces.
- ▶ Dramatic play nooks and props that promote realistic and inclusive role playing.
- ▶ Background music that enhances children's quiet and active play.
- ▶ Attractive art on display at the children's level.
- ▶ Group art projects that foster cooperation and inspiration.
- ▶ Opportunities for children to display and discuss their work.
- ▶ Professional and home-made musical instruments that encourage children to experiment with rhythm, tones, and melodies.



### **Key Art Experiences in Early Childhood**

- ▶ **Expressive Art:** Children need daily opportunities to express themselves creatively. They also need experiences with all kinds of media and tools to discover what works for them.
- ▶ **Art Appreciation:** Experiencing other people's artwork gives children a sense of wonder, an eye for detail, and lets them discover meaning and make connections with the world around them.
- ▶ **Music:** Music is a core element of a quality creative arts curriculum, both for its soothing and inspiring qualities, and also for the math and literacy learning opportunities it provides.
- ▶ **Dramatic Play:** Dramatic play allows children to express emotions and role play in a safe setting. Facilitated free play with realistic, child-sized props encourages pro-social behavior. More focused performances (show and share, concerts, and skits) help children practice articulation, sequencing, and gain confidence addressing groups.

**Our bottom line: children who experiment with artistic processes and experience other people's creativity develop respect for and appropriate responses to other people's ideas.**

# Our Creative Arts Curriculum

We teach according to children's actual development rather than expecting them to conform to an age-based standard. Our curriculum is cumulative, so older children might demonstrate many outcomes on this page. Our art projects are messy, whole-body experiences, so we request that parents dress children in play clothes every day.

## Infants:

- ▶ Explore non-toxic and/or edible art with fingers, feet, or whole bodies.
- ▶ Listen to environmental music during play and rest.
- ▶ View high-contrast patterned mobiles, textiles, and wall art.
- ▶ Use shakers, bells, and drums to experiment with sound and rhythm.



## Toddlers:

- ▶ Use big crayons, markers, and sidewalk chalk on tables and outdoor canvases.
- ▶ Paint using big brushes, various tools, and easels.
- ▶ Collaborate on group art projects.
- ▶ Play music using real and home-made instruments.
- ▶ Role-play various jobs, situations, and cultures using real-life dramatic play props.

## Preschoolers:

- ▶ Construct three-dimensional art using recycled and natural materials and modeling clay or play dough.
- ▶ Dictate captions or descriptions of their art projects.
- ▶ Experiment with blending paint colors, textural tools, and collage.
- ▶ Adapt favorite songs and tunes or compose their own tunes using classroom instruments.
- ▶ Perform poems, stories, or skits for their peers or adults.
- ▶ Use emotional vocabulary to describe the art they see.
- ▶ Visit art museums and community sculptures.



## Kindergarten & 4K

- ▶ Illustrate their stories.
- ▶ Create art and objects with textiles.
- ▶ Design and redecorate dramatic play areas using themes.
- ▶ Use journals and scrapbooks to document art experiences.
- ▶ Visit with real artists to learn about techniques.
- ▶ Perform songs or poems at local venues such as Arbor Hospice or senior community living centers.
- ▶ Choreograph dance routines to favorite music.
- ▶ Learn folk dances.
- ▶ Collaborate to perform music in a classroom band.
- ▶ Study famous artists' work to determine the techniques used.