



Connect • Collaborate • Create • Celebrate



WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD & THE DIFFERENCE ARTISTS CAN MAKE

Art experiences can help young artists learn valuable life skills. For example, simply co-creating music can boost creativity and confidence, foster teamwork and empathy, and grow appreciation for diverse traditions.

-Craig Webb Sim, Artist Educator

The arts in Early Childhood Education is a way to help children explore and discover the world around them through the senses.

-Louise Campbell, Musician



BENEFITS OF ARTS ENGAGEMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Tiina Kukkonen

What do children gain?



COGNITIVE AND ACADEMIC SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- Symbolic thinking
- Problem-solving
- Attention and focus
- Observation
- Self-regulation
- Literacy and language
- Creativity and imagination



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Communication strategies
- Group creativity
- Understanding of social issues & relationships
- Exploration of real-life & imagined scenarios
- Intrinsic motivation & enjoyment
- Self-expression & empowerment



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Gross and fine motor abilities
(e.g., through drawing, cutting,
dancing, drumming)



WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Whether practiced alone or in groups, art-making is very much a form of play where young children make use of symbolic thought, communication skills, and tactile movement to express ideas and explore real-life and imagined scenarios (Bhroin, 2007; Kolbe, 2005; Kukkonen, Chang-Kredl, & Bolden, 2019).

Creating alongside professional artists, in particular, encourages young children to develop the ability to focus, problem-solve, and observe detail (Eckhoff, 2011). Children also develop fine and gross motor skills, for instance, through holding a paintbrush or moving to music (Corrêa dos Anjos & Ferraro, 2018; Rymanowicz, 2015).

With adult guidance, young children can explore and understand important concepts through the arts, from simple (e.g., learning parts of the body through song) to more complicated ideas (e.g., exploring issues of social justice through puppet theatre) (Hatzigianni, Miller, & Quinones, 2016).

- Excerpts from Tiina Kukkonen
M.A., B.F.A. / B.Ed.
Ph.D. Candidate
Queen's University



FILM MURALS Culture Spoken Word HIP HOP Literature POETRY Visual Arts puppetry THEATRE DANCE

DANCE & MOVEMENT

Dance can do many things for children. Among these is providing space for freedom of expression. Dance provides exercise enhancing motors skill and cognitive development: balance, body awareness, resistance, rhythm, coordination, concentration, flexibility and fluidity. It also exposes a child to numbers, language, music, and movement patterns. Dance and movement cultivate creativity and spontaneity!

- Eryn Dace Trudell, Dancer



MUSIC

"I believe that music allows to connect with oneself through sound, cultivating an intimate relationship with oneself, while at the same time manifesting that internal life to the rest of the world. This establishes the basis for authentic and original communication. I believe that the early years of life of a child are the moment when she or he discovers the languages of interaction with the world. Getting acquainted with music at this time in life will allow a person to take advantage of this experience for their entire life".

- Geremia Lodi, Musician



THEATRE

A recent study suggests that the inclusion of theatre in early childhood education "can provide young children with an entertaining and engaging preschool drama experience while providing academic supports commensurate with those of more traditional early childhood programs."

Mages, Wendy. (2018). Does theatre-in-education promote early childhood development?. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*.



WHEN CHILDREN MAKE ART, THEY PLAY ACROSS DISCIPLINES !

-Louise Campbell, Multidisciplinary Artist

VISUAL ARTS



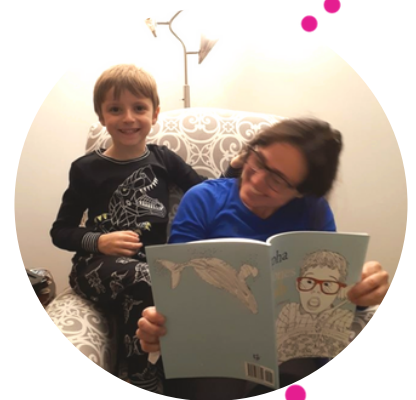
Art workshops emphasize sensory development where observation, individual liberty and preparation of the environment are the building blocks for development. From 3 years to 5 years, workshops with children can be combined with or independent of parental/family assistance. Visual Arts workshops may include painting on canvas, glue on canvas (tissue paper), splatter paint, building small clay objects, exploring colour, layering and sculpture.

- Tamsin Horsfall, Visual Artist

LITERARY ARTS

I've shared my love of reading with all 3 of my kids. I read books by two of our ArtistsInspire authors with my 6 year old, Griffin, and we give both excellent reviews! Lp Camozzi's book, *alpha bones candy*, explores the alphabet through Japanese Tanka poetry with detailed black and white illustrations. Griffin loved the humour, alphabet eye-spy, and is looking forward to colouring the pictures! Eliza Robertson's, *Spur, a Wolf's Story*, is a poignant tale of a wolf who is separated from her pack. Griffin was into the story from page one when the wolf pack goes on a journey to find land that hasn't had the lichen destroyed. Thanks Lp and Eliza for sharing your gifts!

- Christie Huff, Lead Consultant • ELAN Quebec's Arts & Education Initiatives



ELAN's ArtEd Team would love to speak with you about how connecting with the Arts & Artists can make a difference for children, families and communities!

Visit artistsinspire.ca to see our Artist Profiles.

(438) 979-1171

elanarted@quebec-elan.org

facebook.com/ELANArtEd

instagram.com/elanarted

www.quebec-elan.org/arted



ELAN Quebec



460 Saint-Catherine St. W. Suite 706
Montreal, Quebec H3B 1A7