

EMBRACING PROCESS ART

Erica Kelley

Grace Dixon

Early Childhood Specialists of ELCIRMO

AGENDA



Why Process Art?

Honoring the Child

Setting Up for
Process Art

Let's Get Inspired!

Break

Invitation to Create!



WHY PROCESS ART?

Children are born with a sense of
WONDER

It is our job as Early Childhood Educators to
protect and cultivate
this natural born curiosity.



Process art is open-ended

It allows children to use higher order thinking skills

It engages children in the experience, not the end product

It's a journey that does not have a right or wrong way

Product Art

vs.

Process Art



- Children have instructions to follow
- Teacher created a sample to copy
- There's a right and wrong way to proceed
- There's a finished product in mind
- The children's finished art all looks the same
- Children might experience frustration
- Teacher might "fix mistakes"



- There are no step-by-step instructions
- There is no sample for children to follow
- There is no right or wrong way to explore and create
- The art is focused on experimentation and exploration
- The art is unique and original
- The experience is relaxing and calming
- The art is entirely the children's own

Things children may say during Product Art:

“Mine doesn’t look right.”

“Can I be done now?

“I can’t do it!”



Things children may say during Process Art:

“Can I have more time?”

“I want to make another one!”

“I did it!”





Honoring the Child and Regard for Child Perspective

Toddler: The teacher scoring at the high end of RCP allows children to take the lead on what to do or make

Preschool: The teacher may set up an art area without providing instructions for specific projects. Instead, the students are allowed to use the materials to do a project of their choosing.

QUESTIONS TO HONOR THE CHILD AND DEEPEN THINKING

- What would you like to make today?
- How will you do that?
- What materials do you need?
- Tell me about what you're making.
- How did you make that?
- What else would you like to add?



Setting Up for Process Art

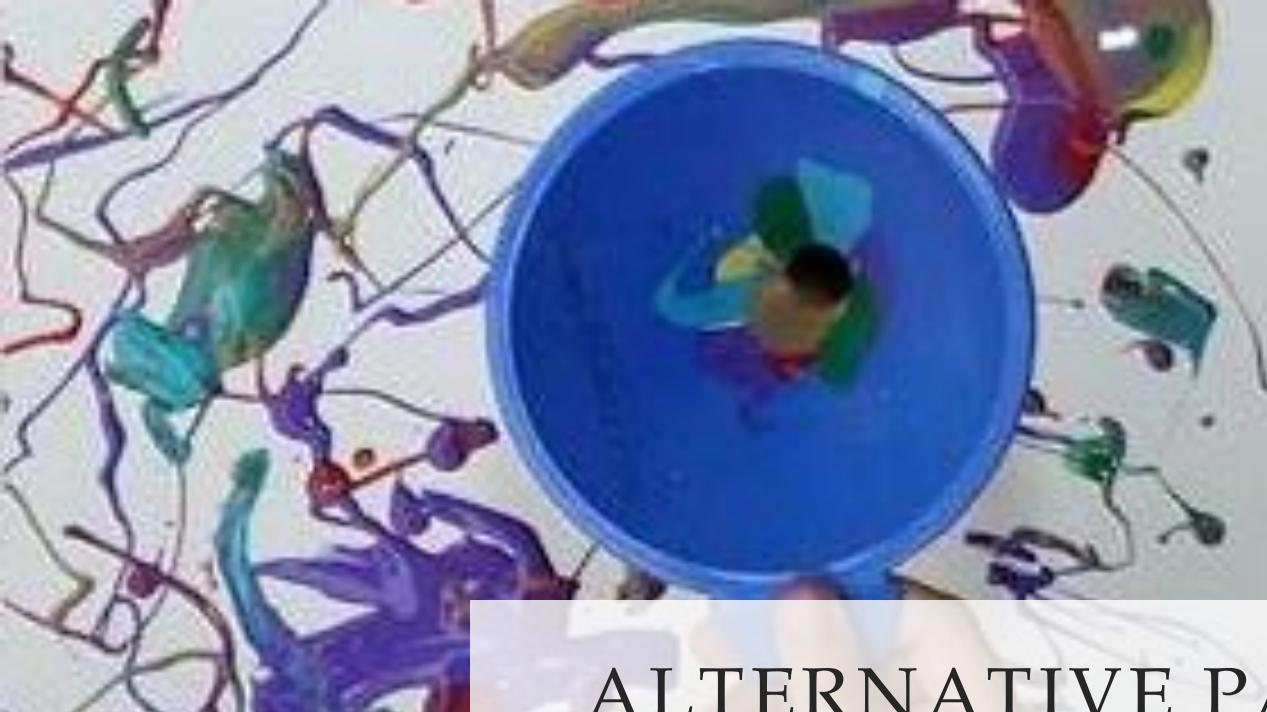
Display materials in ways that *invite* and *inspire*

Set out real life examples, books, or pictures

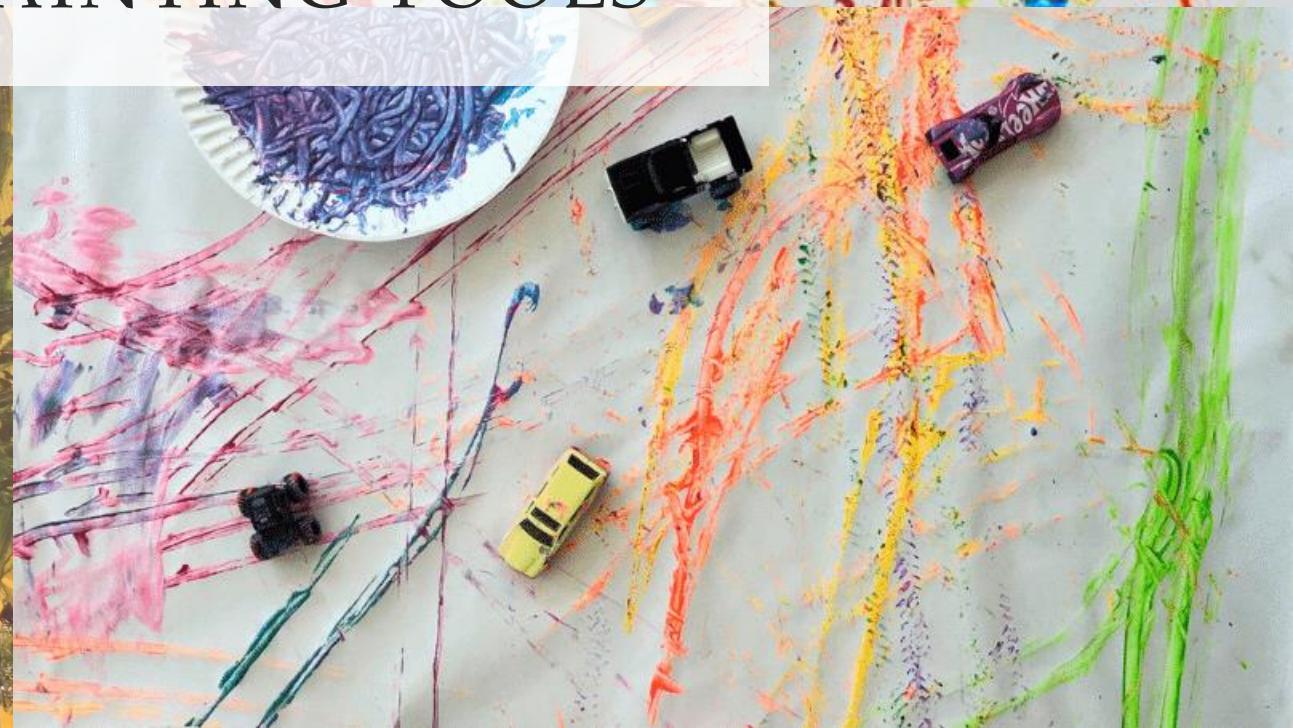
Offer a variety of painting tools

Provide *loose parts*





ALTERNATIVE PAINTING TOOLS



LOOSE PARTS

Natural Materials

- Rocks
- Seashells
- Pinecones, Leaves, Flowers
- Wooden Materials

Recycled Items

- Bottle Caps
- Thread Spools
- CDs/CD cases
- Keys

Open Ended

- Pom Poms
- Vase Filler
- Feathers
- Pipe Cleaners

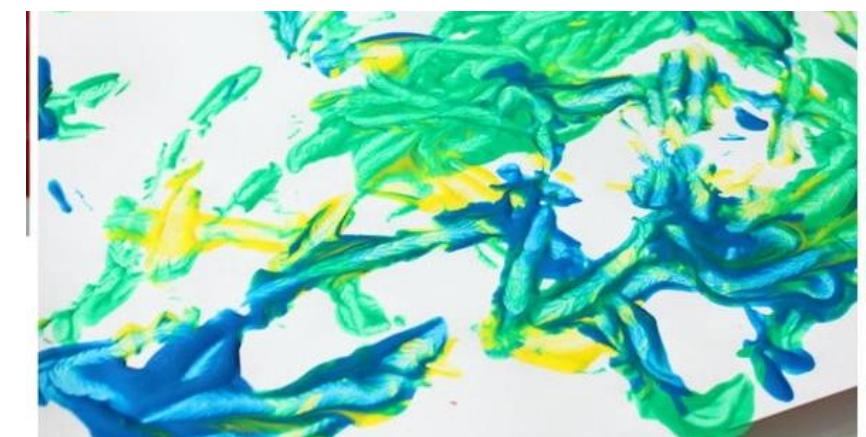
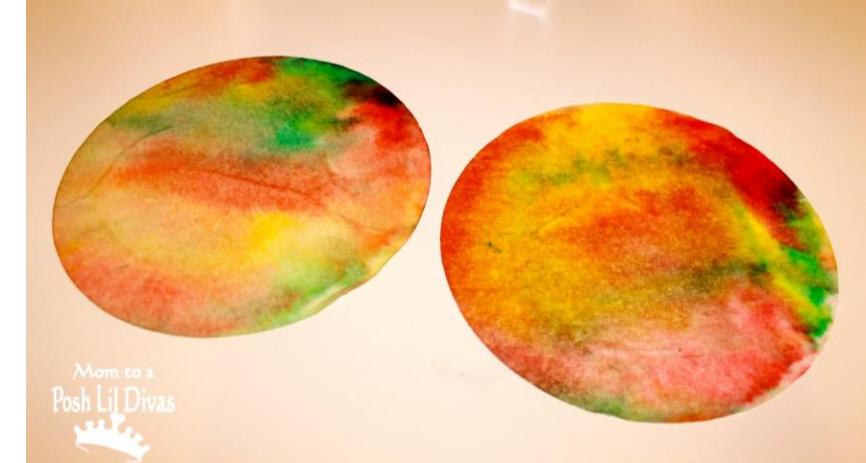
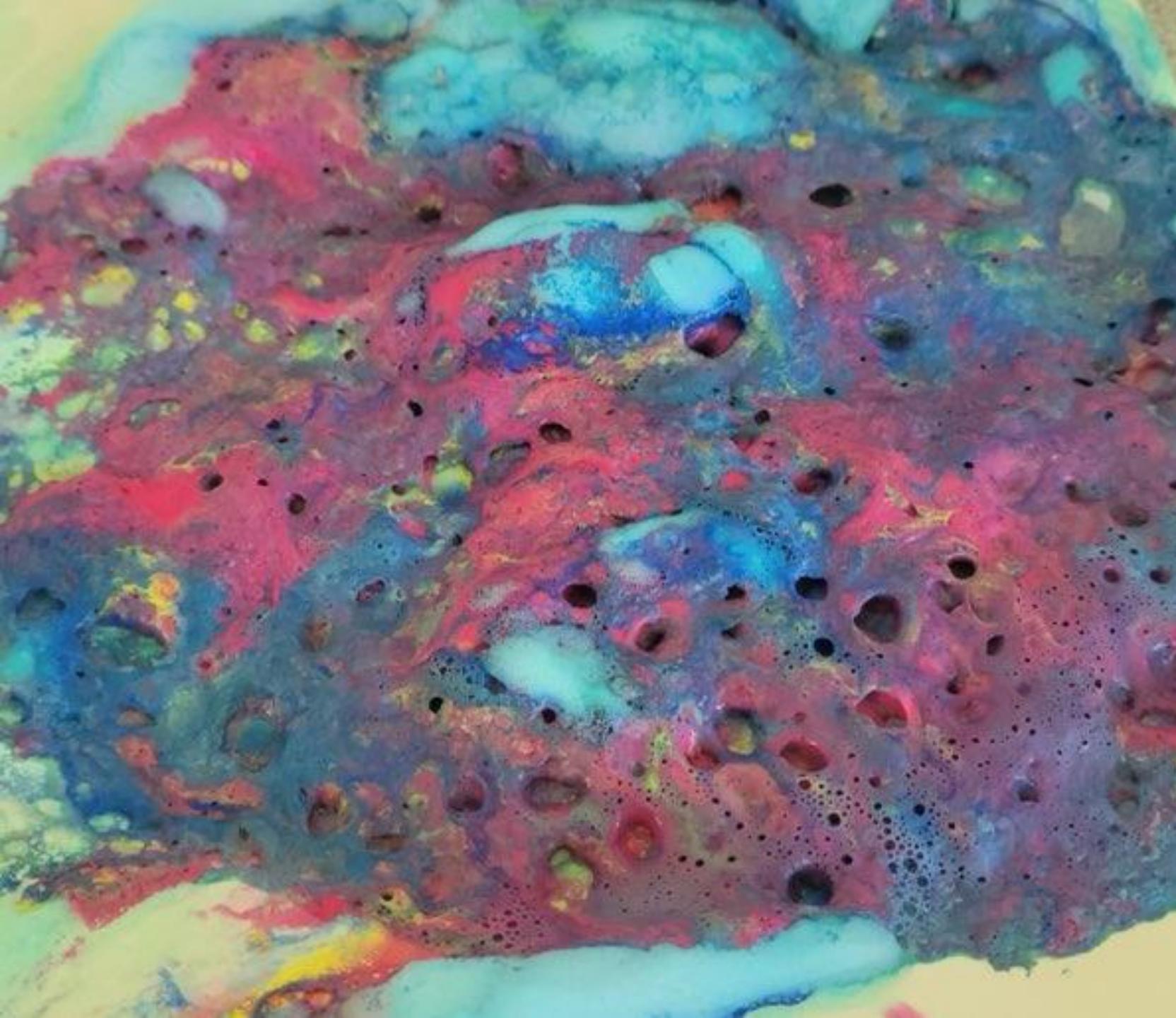


LET'S GET
INSPIRED!

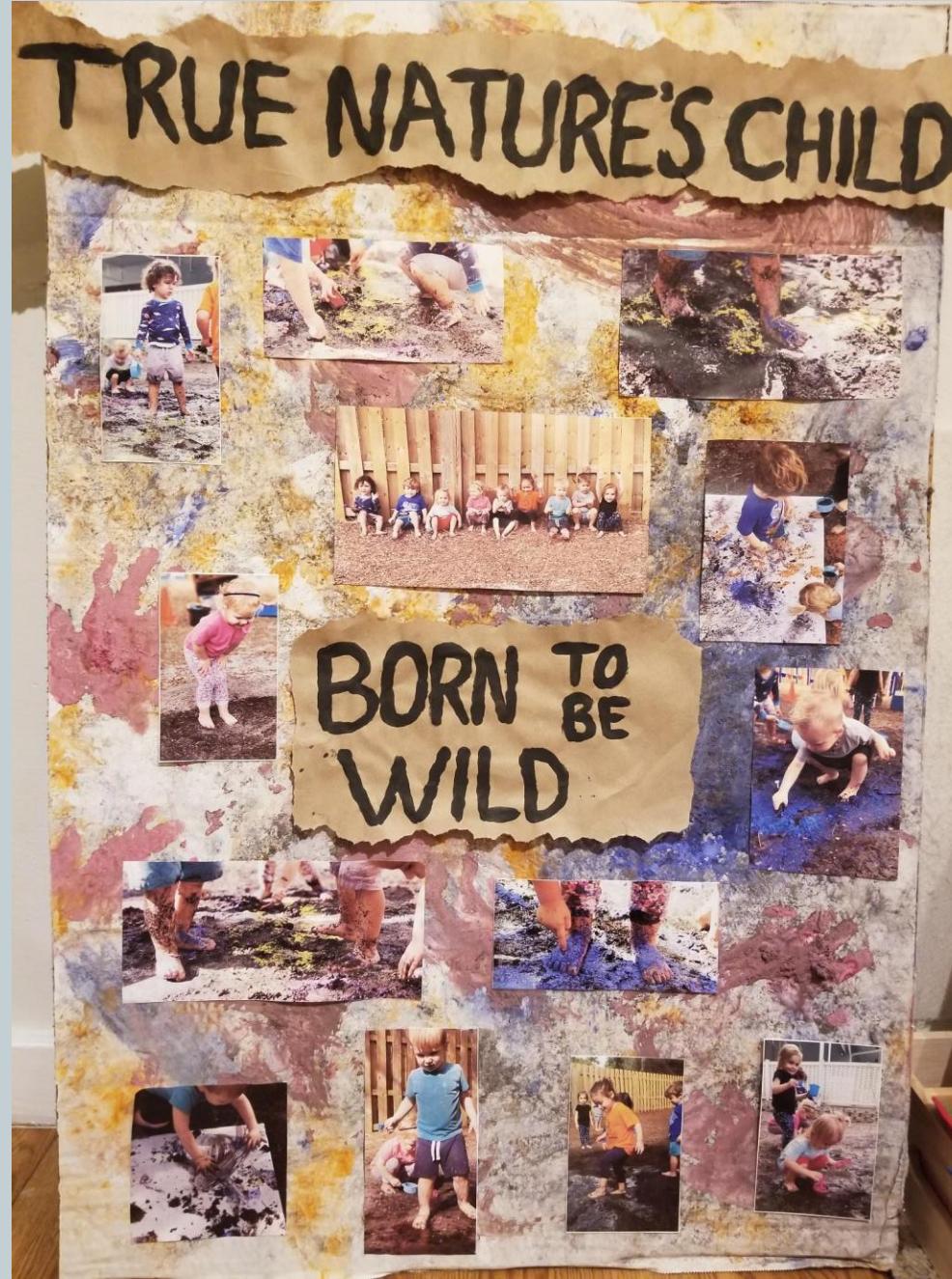




PROCESS ART WITH TODDLERS

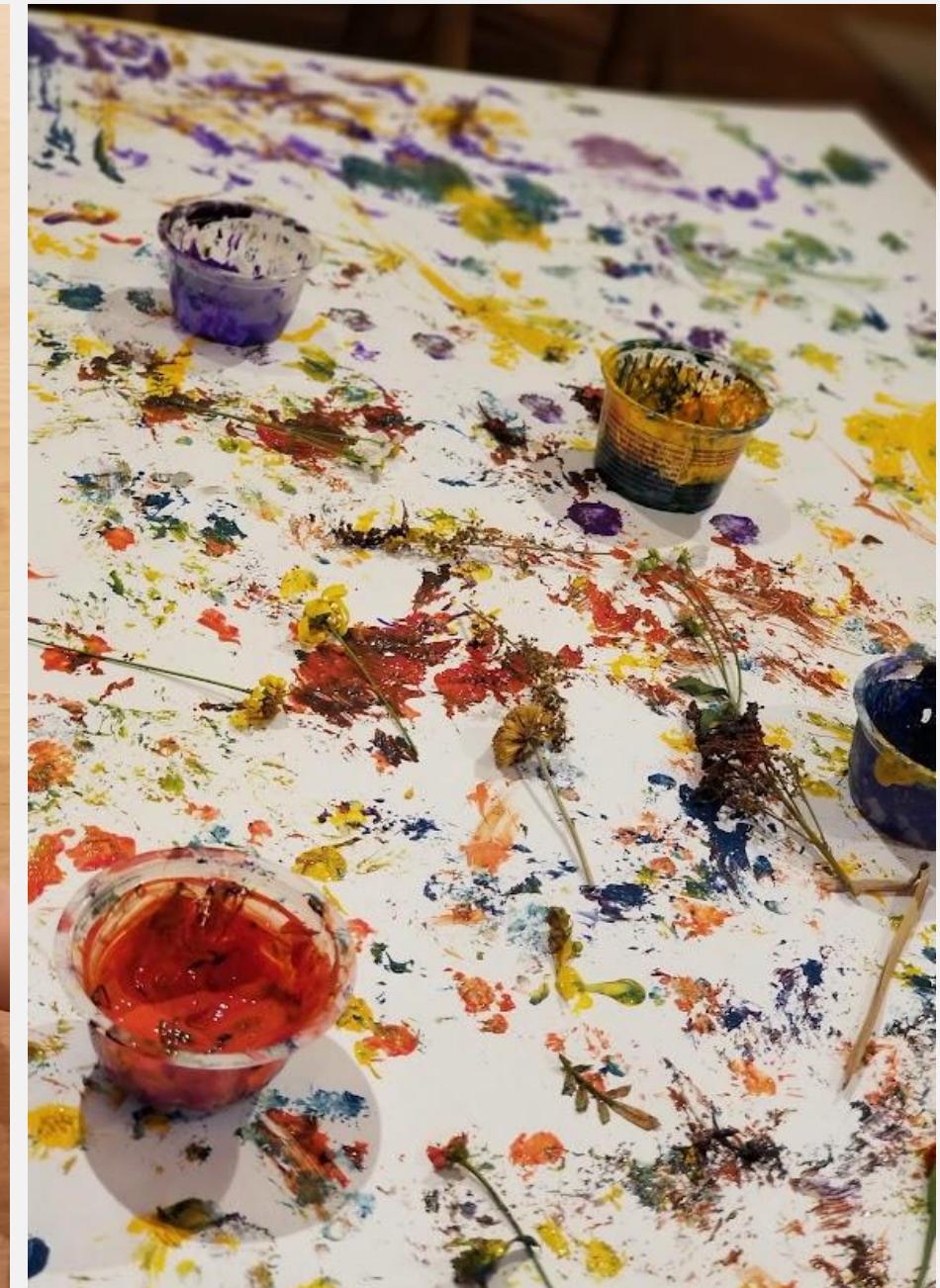








NATURAL ART



Clay “Sculptures”

Clay is the perfect material for strengthening those little hands!

- Explore texture with objects like seashells and pinecones by making imprints in the clay.
- Create a unique sculpture by sticking different materials into the clay and letting it dry.
- Add another step by painting the sculpture after it dries!



Chalk Paint



Materials:

- Mortar and Pestle
- Scraps of Chalk
- Canvas (Styrofoam, Cardboard, Cardstock)

Instructions:

- Provide small pieces of chalk and model how to crush them with the mortar and pestle
- Once chalk is crushed to a powder, add water to desired consistency
- Let the painting magic begin!

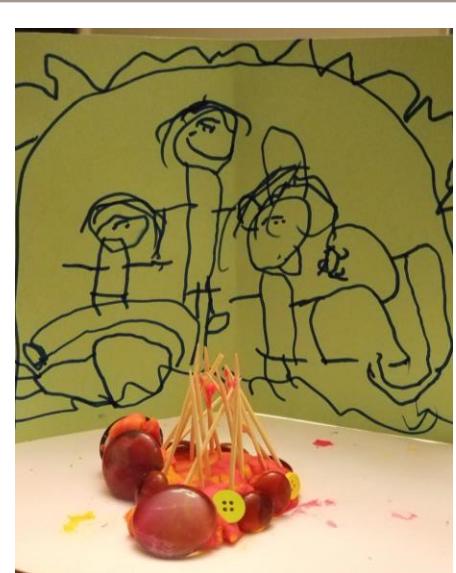




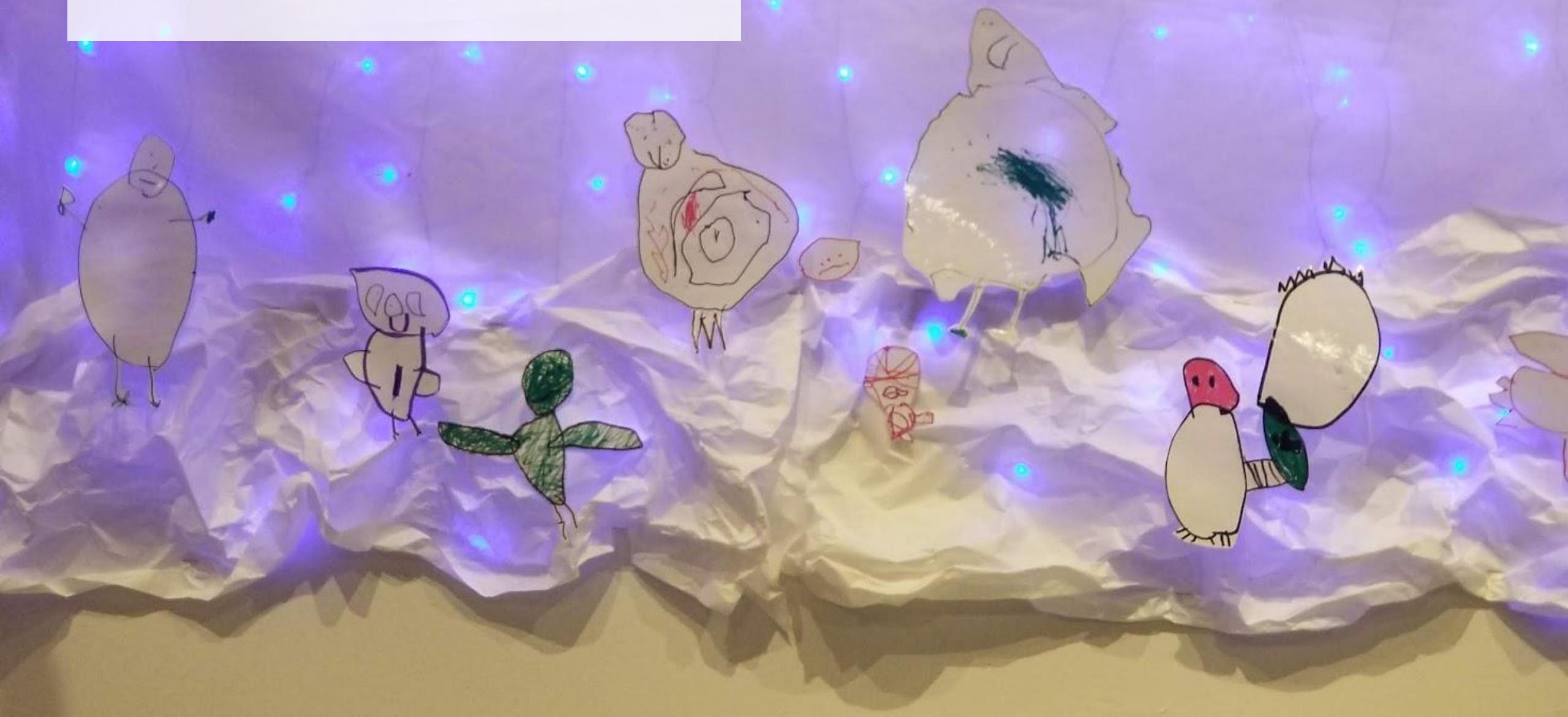
HOLIDAY ART



Storytelling through Art



DISPLAYING ART





A stingray and an octopus are wiggling.
And a squid!
-Zachary



I see an anglerfish looking for fish.
-Harper



I see a shark!
-Eli



A turtle flying in the water and having
jellyfish for a snack.
-Landon



BREAK

WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE AND CREATE!

- Think about an upcoming unit or theme for your class
- How can you incorporate process art? Are there any planned activities you can shift to allow for more creativity and expression?
- Explore the materials we have set out and HAVE FUN!
- We will come back and share as a group at the end :)



Now that you've had some time to explore and get creative, let's share some ideas!

Thank you for your time and creativity!
Have a great rest of your day!

Erica Kelley
ekelley@elcirmo.org

Grace Dixon
gdixon@elcirmo.org

