

It Looks Like Play It's Really Work

Painting develops Writing Skills

Using bright colors to create satisfying symbols.
Movement of arms, wrists, hands and fingers.

Working with paints and crayons is relaxing and gives the thrill of accomplishment as well as providing practice in the use of hand and arm muscles.

Sharing Periods develops Language Skills

Relating what has happened at home, e.g. the new baby.
Explaining a picture painted. Describing something constructed; the new car; a visit to a relative; a ride on the train.

Speaking before a class, giving a recitation or a report, is sometimes difficult, especially for shy children. Telling stories helps overcome this difficulty.

Rhythms & Singing develops Self-Expression & Coordination

Hopping, skipping and running in rhythm. Dancing like whirling leaves, or gliding like an airplane. Singing of falling snow and growing things.

Children need to do things with others, in harmony, where the help of all is necessary. They need to use words clearly to express thoughts and to express themselves through music and movement.

Looking at Books develops Interest in Books

Turning pages, looking at brightly colored pictures. Telling others about them, making up stories about them.
Showing others what is interesting or funny.

Books become interesting, friendly things, and words in print tell a story.

Listening to Stories develops Listening Skills

Stories are read and discussed. Children tell of their experiences and share made up stories.

Listening to others isn't easy in an age characterized by activity, but listening and thinking are necessary skills for communicating with others.

Sharing Playthings develops Social Skills

Taking turns with toys, games, scissors and paste brush, letting others play and cut. Understanding how a group can have fun and get things done too.

At home, playthings are "mine," in school, "ours." It's a hard lesson, but a necessary one for success in school and for living with others pleasantly.

Cutting & Pasting develops Writing Skills

Scrapbooks. Illustrations for a story. Pictures for a bulletin board display. Holiday decorations. Creating our own design.

Cutting on a line is hard. Keeping paste within bounds takes concentration. Small hands and young muscles need training and development for finer writing skills.

Going on Trips develops Awareness of the Larger World

Visiting a fire station, a post office, the grocery store, a farm, a boat in the harbor, the train station, the animals at the park - even the neighbors goat.

Children need to experience for themselves; to see, to touch, to hear, to smell. These activities build understanding of the world around us.

