



**Theme: All Things Art!** The arts are such an exciting part of school. They cover many areas from creative to dramatic expression and can even incorporate mathematics and science too!

Learn Nature Vocabulary with Talking Flashcards

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9syVnWdfAGo&app=desktop>

**Make homemade salt dough** (Play-Doh) from scratch (5 minute prep time).

**Ingredients:** 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup water.

Note: You can add food coloring for pigment.

**Instructions:**

1-In a large mixing bowl, stir together flour and salt.

2-Gradually add water while stirring and mixing to form a dough with a Play-Doh like consistency.

3-Form the dough into balls and knead for approximately 5 minutes, adding a bit **more flour** if the dough is **too sticky** or a bit **more water** if **it's too dry**.

Next, let your children **explore and manipulate the salt dough**. As they roll and squeeze it they will get more comfortable with it as they move it into different shapes. This is great for fine motor development and the pincer grasp.

**After free play time** with the dough if you have **cookie cutters** you can press them into the salt dough with your child and place it in the **microwave in 20 second increments for up to a minute and a half (should be done by then)**.

It will be hot, let it cool once you remove it. **Keep away from children until it returns to room temperature.**

**Once cooled it will be hard and can be painted or decorated with anything of your choice.**

Now you have a permanent table decoration, ornament, paperweight, or figurine keepsake.



(If left exposed/unsealed for an extended period salt dough will dry out). **Be sure to seal in a Ziploc or Tupperware container when not in use.**

### **Read and Recreate**

Read your child a book from your home library and talk about the imagery represented. Are there flowers, animals, cars and so on in the illustrations? While keeping a page in sight as a reference after reading, recreate an image from the book with your child with the salt dough.

Go outside and take note of the animals you see- or watch this backyard animals video for inspiration. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=t8qHLmCRME0> Recreate what you've seen together with the dough. Show your children how to roll balls, snakes and how to connect the shapes. Collect leaves and let your children press them into the dough once rolled flat and pick them up to reveal a leaf imprint.



### **Art in Nature**

Start by reading the book *Stick and Stone* by Beth Ferry illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld.

**YouTube link of the book:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntwNEBNt3DY>

Afterward point to the stick and stone images on the pages and ask your children to identify them. Next go outside with them and collect some sticks and stones. Bring them inside (or outside if weather permitting) and let your children create art using nature as the paintbrush. Show your children that they can use the sticks as paintbrushes and even the stones!

Let them dip the sticks and stones into paint and create a work of art on paper or cardboard. If you have any pizza/delivery boxes, they can be a sturdy canvas to work on.

### **Scavenger Hunt**

Hide art supplies and ask your children to find them. Once they do ask them what they want to create with the items. Some suggested materials to hide: paper, crayons, chalk, a paint brush, stickers, glue sticks, tissue paper, paper plates, paper napkins (plain/with designs).

### **Paint Some Toys**

You could also hide play materials such as plastic balls, plastic play food and other plastic based toys. Once found you can let your children paint these items. Afterward you can give them a small tub and some warm water/soap and a cloth to wash the paint off!

**MUSIC with SARAH: See links below for our Music Teacher's Recent Videos for our Preschool Families:**

<https://youtu.be/kF30tUChpGQ> (YouTube) [www.facebook.com/musicwithmissarah](http://www.facebook.com/musicwithmissarah) (Facebook)

**This week's recycling spotlight:**



You may see toilet paper rolls but we see **binoculars!** For this activity if you have a hot glue gun we suggest making a long line down one side then holding the two sides together for a couple of minutes so it can set.

If you don't have a hot glue gun tape will work too. We recommend using duct tape or painter's tape (not scotch tape if possible) and putting looped pieces of tape (sticky side out) on one side of a toilet paper roll and press it against the other toilet paper roll to hold it in place.

Make extra binoculars for yourself too! Your children will be so excited to use their binoculars with you taking part alongside them.

Next use paint, markers, crayons or stickers to decorate your binoculars. We do not recommend the use of glitter as the children will be holding them up to their eye area.

Optional: Use a single hole punch or pen to make two puncture holes- one in each side of the top so you can thread string or yarn through them to make a necklace. Go on a nature walk or indoor/outdoor exploration. Encourage your children to look through their binoculars as they take in the sites around them!



**Online resources** to draw inspiration from as well.

[Teachingmama.org](https://www.teachingmama.org) [Zerotothree.org](https://www.zerotothree.org) (Week I)  
[Funlearningforkids.com](https://www.funlearningforkids.com) [Artfulparent.com](https://www.artfulparent.com) (Week II)  
[Education.com](https://www.education.com) [Mathathome.org](https://www.mathathome.org) (Week III)

We hope this information finds you well!

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