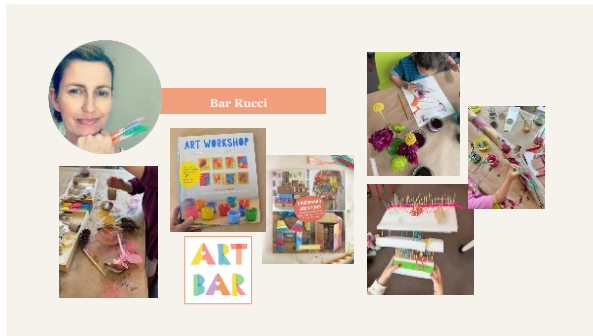


THE CREATIVITY PROJECT

Cultivating Creativity

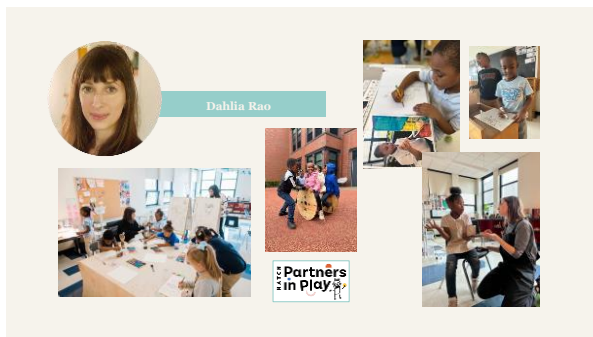
Leveraging Process Art & Play in the Classroom

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Bar Rucci

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Dahlia Rao

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Shannon Merenstein

COLLAGE WORKSHOP

Partners in Play

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What is The Creativity Project?

The Creativity Project is a movement at the forefront of transforming education.

Our *Art & Play Curriculum Guides* and *Materials Matter* course offer teachers and caregivers the tools, skills, and mindsets needed to honor each child's way of thinking and working, and help transform classrooms into hubs of creativity and innovation.

We believe that process art and play bring a sense of agency, belonging and joy that all children deeply need and deserve.

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Objectives

1. Reflect on your practice with inviting and supporting open ended art & play
2. Understand the differences between guided art & play, and experiences that prioritize choice and agency
3. Recognize the benefits of process art & play for the whole child
4. Plan for an open ended experience with simple materials in your classroom
5. Embrace a flexible mindset and belief that children are capable and full of creative potential

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Agenda

1. What's the difference between guided choice and open ended?
2. Process art is play
3. Whole child benefits
4. Mindsets and Beliefs
5. Practice shifts
6. Recap
7. Contact us and O+A

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“Every day, in a 100 small ways, our children ask, ‘Do you hear me? Do you see me? Do I matter?’ Their behavior often reflects our response.”

L.R. Knost

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Differences Between Directed and Open-ended Art & Play



Directed



Open-ended

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Differences Between Directed and Open-ended Art & Play



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Differences Between Directed and Open-ended Art & Play



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Differences Between Directed and Open-ended Art & Play



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When Art is Play it looks..

experimental
iterative
flowing
collaborative
joyful

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Whole Child Benefits



- Cognitive
- Physical
- Creative
- Socio-Emotional

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Whole Child Benefits



Cognitive

- Practice content and skills authentically
- Problem solving
- Serve and return language

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Whole Child Benefits



- Physical
- Fine motor
- Gross motor
- Sensory processing

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Whole Child Benefits



- Creative
- Creative
- Innovation
- Wonder
- Confidence
- Expression

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Whole Child Benefits



- Creative
- Socio-emotional
- Contextualizes skill building
- Motivated to persist
- Opportunities for modeling skills and language


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SELF-ADVOCACY PHRASES
for children

I'm still learning that.
You can have the next turn.
I'll let you know when I am done.
I need more space, please.
I feel sad, mad, worried, nervous, surprised right now.
I need to take a break.
I need some time to relax down.
Please stop, I don't like that.
Can I have it now when you're done?
Can I play with you?
Can I see that one?
Do you want help?
I love you.
I'll think about it.
No, thank you.



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Mindset & Beliefs

1. Creative Confidence
2. Agency and Trust
3. Belonging
4. Flow

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1. Creative Confidence

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2. Agency & Trust



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3. Belonging



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4. Flow



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We don't need to teach creativity, all children possess it. If we hope to nurture it, we need to prioritize opportunities for children to be true decision makers and trust that they are capable and full of good ideas.

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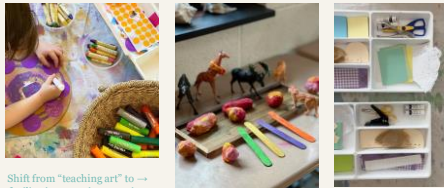


Practice Mindset Shifts

What are some simple and practical shifts you can make tomorrow that intentionally support creative thinking, agency, and flow?

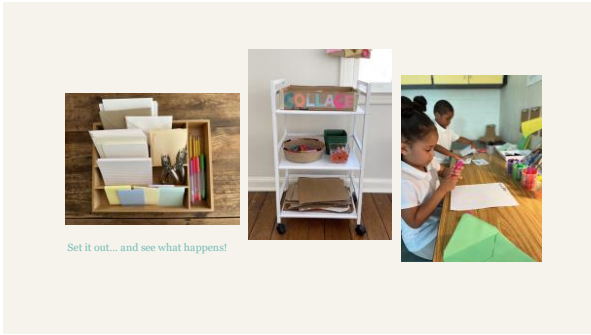
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i. Offer Material, Tool, or Format Choices



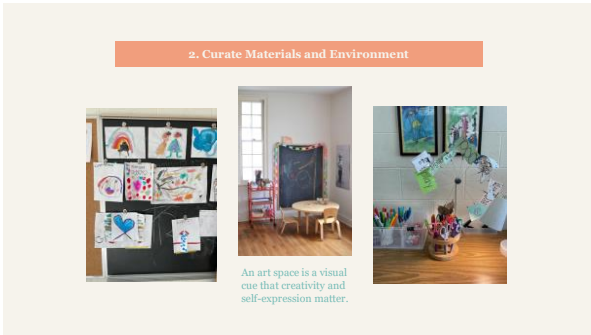
Shift from "teaching art" to → facilitating creative experiences.

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Set it out... and see what happens!

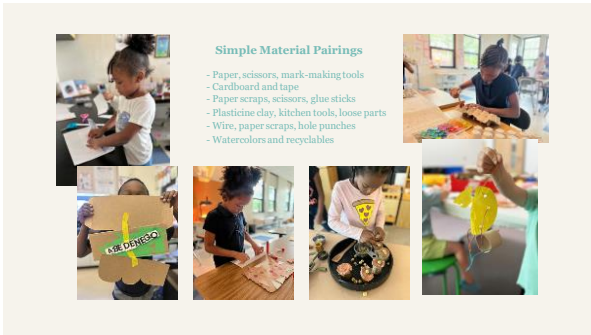
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2. Curate Materials and Environment

An art space is a visual cue that creativity and self-expression matter.

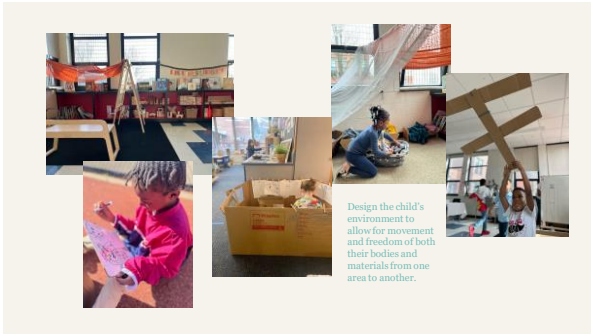
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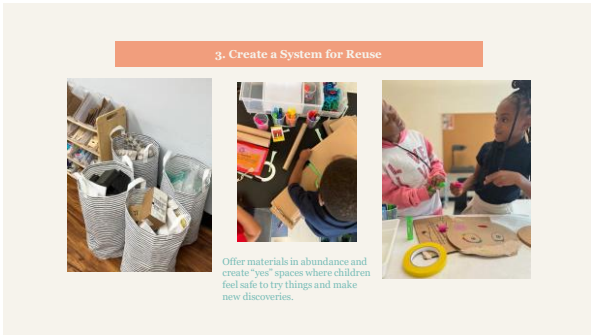
Simple Material Pairings

- Paper, scissors, mark-making tools
- Cardboard and tape
- Paper scraps, scissors, glue sticks
- Plasticine clay, kitchen tools, loose parts
- Wire, paper scraps, hole punches
- Watercolors and recyclables

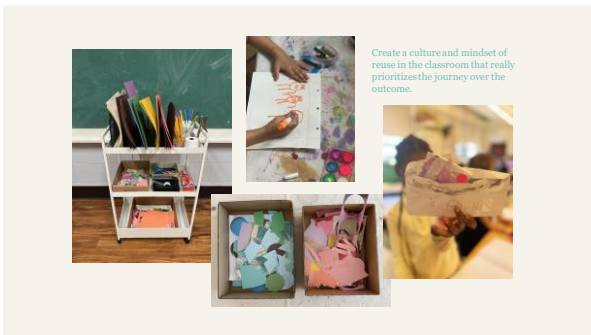
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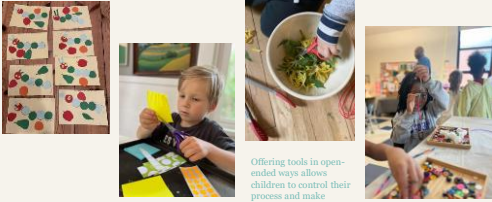


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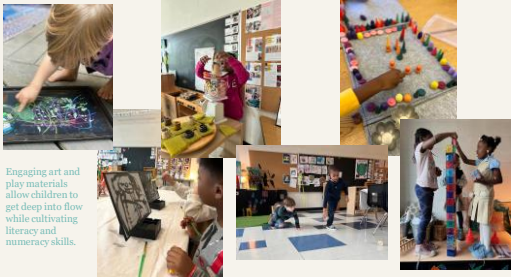
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4. Explore other ways to build skills



Offering tools in open-ended ways allows children to control their process and make decisions along the way.

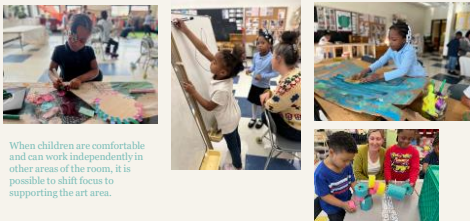
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Engaging art and play materials allow children to get deep into flow while cultivating literacy and numeracy skills.

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5. Offer art experiences during free play time



When children are comfortable and can work independently in other areas of the room, it is possible to shift focus to supporting the art area.

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6. Revisit process art experiences frequently

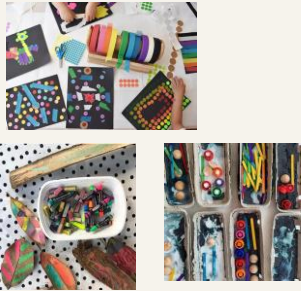


Children develop creative confidence when offered the opportunity to return to experiences again and again.

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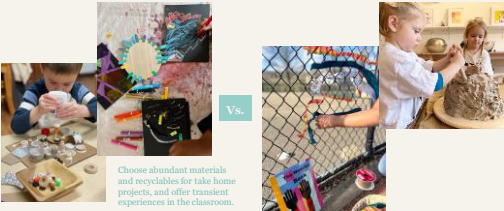


Simple changes to format, surface, and table set-ups spark new ideas with familiar materials.



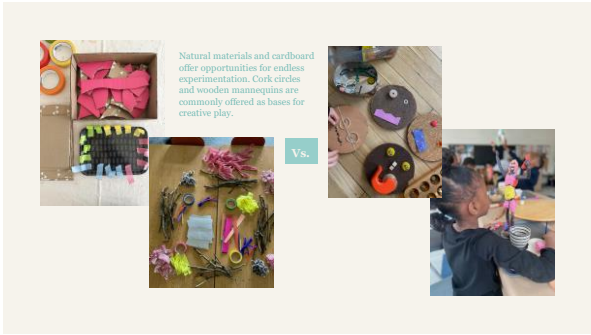
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7. Make & Take vs. Make & Break



Choose abundant materials and recyclables for take home projects, and offer transient experiences in the classroom.

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Take a moment to think about **one shift** you can make this week:

1. Offer material, tool, or format choices
2. Curate materials or environment
3. Create a system for reuse
4. Explore other ways to build skills
5. Offer art during free play
6. Revisit process art experiences frequently
7. Make and Take vs. Make and Break

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