



3–5 Years

Creative Expression: Appreciation and Knowledge of Creative Expression

WHEN INTRODUCED AND EMPHASIZED: Weeks 1–2, 5–7, 16–18, 24, 29–31, 35–37, and 48–50

BEHAVIORS TO OBSERVE

- Understanding How Art is Created
- Understanding Dance Concepts
- Understanding Music Concepts
- Understanding Drama Concepts

OBSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding How Art is Created

What level of understanding of artistic creation does the child demonstrate as he/she:

- responds to questions about how art is being created (Week 5, Day 2 group activity)?
- talks about characteristics of the paint being used (Week 7, Day 1 center activity)?
- mentions or talks about artistic concepts (any free play period after Week 5, Day 1)?

Understanding Dance Concepts

In what ways does the child demonstrate an understanding of dance concepts as he/she:

- describes basic dance movements (any free play period after Week 11, Day 3)?
- responds to questions about moving his/her body to music (Week 24, Day 2 group activity)?
- pretends to be a choreographer creating dance movements (any free play period after Week 24, Day 3)?

Understanding Music Concepts

In what ways does the child show an understanding of music concepts as he/she:

- mentions or talks about a music concept as he/she plays an instrument (any free play period after Week 1, Day 2)?
- describes what he/she hears while listening to orchestral music; describes instruments in *My First Orchestra Book* (Week 17, Day 2 center activity)?
- moves his/her scarf in big or small circles in response to music tempo (Week 18, Day 2 group activity)?



Understanding Drama Concepts

In what ways does the child show he/she understands drama concepts as he/she:

- uses a puppet(s) in creating a story or character (Week 1, Day 3 center activity)?
- responds to questions about drama concepts (after Week 29, Day 1)?
- responds to questions about voice, facial expressions, or movements (Week 30, Day 1 group activity)?

FOLLOW-UP LEARNING SUPPORTS

Reinforce

The following activities are designed to support the ongoing development of children's appreciation and understanding of creative expression.

Understanding How Art is Created

- Provide books focused on art, such as *The Art Lesson* by Tomie dePaola. Encourage children to talk about their favorite form(s) of art.
- Invite artistically-oriented family members or local artists to demonstrate how they make art.

Understanding Dance Concepts

- Encourage children to be choreographers creating dance movements for different types of music.
- Invite children to describe any dance class or performance they have attended.
- Display and describe pictures of people engaged in dance. Include illustrations of dance from different cultures, including cultures represented in your room or center.

Understanding Music Concepts

- Provide rhythm sticks for children to tap along with the easily-recognized beat of music you play.
- Support practice in making quiet and louder sounds by providing instruments for children to play, or encouraging children to use different volumes with their voices, or by clapping their hands together.

Understanding Drama Concepts

- Invite children to explain why we often use different voices, facial expressions, or movements to tell a story.
- Encourage children to describe a puppet show or a dramatic performance they have attended.



Reintroduce

The following activities are designed for children who need extra support for appreciating and understanding creative expression. These activities are also appropriate for all children.

Understanding How an Artist Creates Art

- Repeat the Week 1, Day 1 group activity. You may wish to reduce the number of novel words introduced in the activity, although the concepts of “same,” “different,” and “idea” provide a foundation for later activities.
- Repeat the Week 5, Day 2 group activity to help children understand different forms of art. If possible, display actual (or illustrations) of types of art, such as a sculpture made by a child from play dough, a painting, or a photograph that was taken by a parent or by a staff member.

Understanding Dance Concepts

- Repeat the second segment of the Week 1, Day 2 group activity to help children understand that a dance can be done with music or without music.
- Use the second segment of the Week 24, Day 3 group activity to emphasize the work of a choreographer.

Understanding Music Concepts

- Review the first segment of the Week 1, Day 2 group activity to emphasize the idea that we can make a song by putting together words and music.
- Repeat the Week 16, Day 3 group activity to help children understand that different kinds of musical instruments can make different sounds. Use portions of Week 17 activity plans to help children understand how musicians play different instruments.

Understanding Drama Concepts

- Use puppets and perhaps a volunteer child to offer another example of how we can do drama. Act out a familiar scenario. Remind children what it means to pretend.
- Repeat Week 29 activities that are pertinent to children’s understanding of imitation. Day 1 is voice, Day 2 is facial expressions, and Day 3 pertains to imitating physical movements.