

Use the IQ Guide for the Learning Environment to ensure the required items are accessible to children each day. When materials are accessible, children can use materials without adult assistance. Young children are imaginative and enjoy using art materials to express their ideas. In the preschool years, the process of creating is more important than the product the children develop. The Art Area/Center should be a safe, comfortable area to foster the freedom of creative expression with materials and teachers who support these endeavors.

### **Furnishing:**

- ⇒ **Table and chairs:** Make sure there is a table with chairs in or adjacent to the art center. This table may be used during small group or other times of the day for other activities.
- ⇒ **Drying space or rack:** There should be a designated place for paint or other creations to dry.
- ⇒ **Full-sized easel accessible daily (must hold 16x22 or 18x 24 paper):** The easel should not be used to routinely display other activities such as class charts or stories.
- ⇒ **Shelving for housing art materials**

### **Ensure the following basic materials are accessible, labeled, and organized:**

- ✍ **Crayons:** Jumbo or regular-sized crayons (in a variety of colors)
- ✍ **Markers:** Jumbo or regular-sized markers (in a variety of colors)
- ✍ **Paper of different sizes, colors, textures (3 different types):**

Construction    Tissue    White    Manilla    Newsprint    Foil    Wax    Wrapping

- ✂ **Scissors: (appropriately sized) enough for a small group of children**
- ✂ **Collage materials (3 types):**

Pipe cleaners    Fabric scraps    Buttons    Cotton balls    Feathers    Foam pieces  
 Pom poms    Yarn    Stickers    Paper scraps    Sequins    Ribbon

- ✂ **Play dough or soft clay and tools:** Check play dough frequently to ensure that the material is still soft and pliable
- ✂ **Glue (enough for a small group of children):** Bottles of glue or glue sticks. Ensure that glue is still usable and not sealed shut.



*Young children need painting opportunities to express themselves creatively, as well as to develop large and small motor skills associated with easel painting. The easel, paint, painting implements, and paper should be prepared daily and be clearly visible to children as a choice prior to center time.*

- ✍ **Fresh Paint for easel (3 or more colors):** Paint should be in cups and ready for children to use each day. Watercolors, paint markers, and paint dotter do not meet this requirement.
- ✍ **Paint brushes appropriately sized (one for each color of paint)**
- ✍ **Paper for easel (16 x 22 or 18 x 24)**
- ✍ **Painting smocks:** Commercial smocks, aprons, or oversized shirts may be used. There should be enough smocks for a small group of children.
- ✍ **Materials for three-dimensional creations (variety):**

Small boxes      Straws      Paper plates      Pie plates      Pipe cleaners      Cardboard tubes

- ✍ **Materials for promoting literacy development:**

Books      Storybook paper      Alphabet stickers      Lined paper  
 Journals      Pens      Pencils      Magazines

### Questions to Help Children Think

Tell me about what you built, made, or created.  
 How did you decide what materials you were going to use for your creation?  
 What do you think might happen if you used different tools with the playdough?  
 How did you make those colors? What colors did you mix together?  
 How did you feel when you finished it?

