

Sensory Art for June Events



June is full of great events: Father's Day, Graduations, Weddings, end of school. Art projects can be perfect presents from children - and great learning experiences as well. The process of making art for young children is more important than the finished product. We adults often want the finished products to be nice and neat and pretty, but the most valuable art projects are those that get kids to take their time and explore with their senses. Even if the final result is "messy", it has real value as a sensory art experience: building hand muscles, having your own ideas, and the choices that children get to make. These are all the things that help them grow physically, cognitively, and emotionally.

Young children learn best by doing things for themselves through their senses. Projects that offer varied textures tend to hold a child's attention. Kids love it because they can explore many materials and make lots of choices. And it is failure proof--uniquely theirs.

Collage is a great sensory activity for young children, as well as a fun way to use up leftover arts and crafts supplies. A collage can be a great present. Framed or on its own, the top of a jewelry or special storage box, or even the face of a card are surfaces that can be collaged. Take leftover paper and have the children "pinch and tear" paper and tissue paper, or cut other materials into scraps to be used for collage. Add other things like smooth and shiny buttons, fluffy feathers or cotton balls, rough things like sandpaper, and recycled materials: metal and plastic lids from jars, etc. The idea is to mix things with very different feelings all together. *Tacky Glue* is the best craft glue to ensure things stick well. If it is mostly paper and flat items, covering the project in a few coats of *Modge Podge* seals it and makes it stick even better. It can be made shiny or matte.