

12-Month Creative Arts Curriculum

Month	Art theme	Cultural Connection	Skill
January	Music & Rhythm	African drums, jazz beats	Listening, patterning
February	<i>Painting & Color Stories</i>	Black artists, storytelling with paint	Fine motor, expression
March	Dance & Movement	African dance, stepping	Coordination, rhythm
April	Earth Art (Nature Crafts)	Sustainability, earth month	Environmental care
May	Sculpture & Building	Architecture, block play	Engineering, creativity
June	Quilts & Patterns	Black story quilts	Sequencing, design
July	Water & Sand Art	Outdoor exploration	Science, sensory play
August	Creative Writing & Storytelling	Folktales, oral history	Literacy, imagination
September	Theater & Role Play	Dramatic skits	Expression, confidence
October	Photography & Visual Storytelling	Family & community photos	Observation, memory
November	Cooking	Family recipes	Math, science, culture
December	Community Art Showcase	Family celebration	Collaboration, pride

Weekly/Daily Structure

Week 1: Introduction to the art form

Week 2: Skill practice & guided exploration

Week 3: Independent & group creative project

Week 4: Showcase, reflection, and family involvement

January – Music & Rhythm 🎵

DailyPlan

Week 1: Exploring Sounds (shakers, drums, bells)

Week 2: Fast vs. Slow Beats

Week 3: Call & Response Songs

Week 4: Making Homemade Instruments

Math → Count drumbeats

Literacy → Read “Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb” & clap along

Creative Arts → Build instruments

Science → Explore sound vibrations

February – Painting & Colors 🎨

Daily Plan

Week 1: Primary Colors

Week 2: Mixing Colors

Week 3: Painting with Nature (leaves, sticks)

Week 4: Self-Portraits

Math → Count colors in a painting

Literacy → Story about an artist & describe artwork

Creative Arts → Finger painting

Science → Mixing colors with water

March – Dance & Movement 🕺

Daily Plan

Week 1: Body Parts in Motion

Week 2: Dancing with Scarves

Week 3: Freeze Dance (listening skills)

Week 4: Cultural Dances (African drum dance, Salsa, Hip-Hop basics)

Math → Count dance steps

Literacy → Movement-based story (acting out)

Creative Arts → Dance circle

Science → Learn how muscles help movement

April – Earth & Nature 🌍

Daily Plan

Week 1: Planting Seeds

Week 2: Bug Observation

Week 3: Rocks & Sticks (building)

Week 4: Caring for the Earth (recycling art)

Math → Count seeds planted

Literacy → Read “The Tiny Seed” by Eric Carle

Creative Arts → Nature collages

Science → Life cycle of a plant

May – Storytelling & Drama 🥰

Week 1: Puppet Play

Week 2: Acting Out Stories

Week 3: Dress-Up & Pretend

Week 4: Create Our Own Storybook

Daily Plan

Math → Sequence story events

Literacy → Story dictation (children tell, teacher writes)

Creative Arts → Puppet-making

Science → Cause & effect in stories

June – Sculpture & Building 🧱

Week 1: Clay & Playdough

Week 2: Recyclable Sculptures

Week 3: Block Towers

Week 4: Build a City Together

Daily Plan

Math → Measure block towers

Literacy → Read “Iggy Peck, Architect”

Creative Arts → Clay animals

Science → Test which structures stand/fall

July – Creative Writing 🖋️

Week 1: Journaling with Pictures

Week 2: Labeling Our Drawings

Week 3: Writing Our Names

Week 4: Story Dictation

(children tell, teacher writes)

Daily Plan

Math → Sorting fabrics by size/color

Literacy → Book about sewing/clothing

Creative Arts → Weaving paper strips

Science → What happens when water hits fabric?

August – Photography & Media 📷

Week 1: Exploring Cameras (toy or real)

Week 2: Taking Nature Photos

Week 3: Making Collages

Week 4: “All About Me” Photo Books

Daily Plan

Math → Sort pictures by category

Literacy → Photo journaling

Creative Arts → Picture collages

Science → Light & shadow exploration

September – Fashion & Textiles 👗

Week 1: Fabric Exploration (soft, rough, smooth)

Week 2: Designing Outfits (paper dolls)

Week 3: Dress-Up & Role Play

Week 4: Tie-Dye / Shirt Painting

Daily Plan

Math → Measuring ingredients

Literacy → Recipe reading

Creative Arts → Fruit kabobs

Science → Observe changes when cooking (solid → liquid)

October – Cooking & Culinary Arts 🍎

Week 1: Measuring Ingredients (math focus)

Week 2: Healthy Snacks (fruits & veggies)

Week 3: Baking Bread (science of yeast)

Week 4: Family Recipe Sharing

Daily Plan

Math → Count faces in art

Literacy → Books about feelings

Creative Arts → Mask-making

Science → Facial expressions & muscles

November – Cultural Arts 🌐

Week 1: African Drumming & Dance

Week 2: Native American Beading

Week 3: Latino Papel Picado

Week 4: Family Traditions Showcase

Daily Plan

Math → Count syllables in words

Literacy → Nursery rhymes, poems

Creative Arts → Sound poems with instruments

Science → Sounds of words

December – Mixed Media & Showcase 🌟

Week 1: Combining Paint, Fabric, Paper

Week 2: Collage of the Year's Art

Week 3: Group Mural Project

Week 4: Art Show for Families

Daily Plan

Math → Count candles (Kwanzaa)

Literacy → Storytelling of family traditions

Creative Arts → Ornament making

Science → Melting ice/snow exploration

📌 By the end of the year, children will have touched every major art form, while also building literacy, math, science, and social skills — all WMELS aligned.

Sensory play is a powerful and fun way to support development in infants and toddlers! Here are hands-on sensory play ideas organized by type (touch, sight, sound, smell, taste, and movement)

Tactile (Touch) Sensory Play

- Sensory Bins: Fill shallow bins with rice, oats, water beads (for), or fabric scraps.
- Texture Boards: Glue items like sandpaper, felt, cotton balls, and foil to cardboard for exploration.
- Water Play: Use warm or cool water with cups, sponges, and floating toys.
- Edible Play Dough: Safe for infants who mouth things (use mashed potatoes or banana-based versions).
- Finger Painting: Use yogurt or baby-safe paints on paper or trays.
- Ice Play: Let them explore melting ice cubes (can freeze small toys or fruits inside for discovery).

Visual Sensory Play

- Color Scarves in a Tissue Box: Infants love pulling out bright scarves!
- Mirror Play: Place babies in front of safe, baby mirrors to explore their reflection.
- Light Tables or Flashlight Play: Use soft lights to shine through colored objects or jars.
- Sensory Bottles: Fill clear bottles with water, glitter, beads, oil, or small items to shake and watch.

Movement-Based (Vestibular/Proprioception) Sensory Play

- Crawling Tunnels: Use a play tunnel or create one from boxes.
- Pillow Mountain: Let them climb over soft cushions or bean bags.
- Rolling Balls: Sit across from each other and roll balls back and forth.
- Dance Time: Slow songs with scarves or up-and-down movement with you.

Auditory (Hear) Sensory Play

- DIY Shakers: Use small containers filled with rice or pasta to shake.
- Musical Instruments: Let them explore drums, tambourines, or wooden blocks.
- Listening Walks: Go outside and pause to listen for birds, cars, wind, etc.
- Bubble Wrap Popping (for toddlers): Tape it down and let them stomp or press.

Olfactory (Smell) Sensory Play

- Scent Jars: Fill small containers with safe scents like cinnamon sticks, citrus peels, or vanilla.
- Herb Garden Bin: Place rosemary, mint, or lavender in sensory baskets.
- Scented Water Play: Add fruit slices or a drop of vanilla or peppermint to water bins.

Taste-Safe Sensory Play (for younger children who mouth everything)

- Edible Sand: Crushed Cheerios or graham crackers in a bin with spoons.
- Jell-O Dig: Hide baby-safe items in gelatin for a squishy exploration.
- Whipped Cream or Yogurt Painting: Let them “paint” and taste safely.