

Themes

The Joy of Art
Nurture Nature

Shapes and Colors



Numbers

17, 18

Letters

Vv, Ww, Xx

Alphabet Words

viola, violets,
volcano, volleyball,
wallet, watermelon,
wheat, wolf,
xylophone, fox,
ox, wax

Sign Language



Theme Descriptions

The Joy of Art: Explore color, observe the styles of famous artists, visit virtual art museums, and discover other forms of art such as music and dance with your budding artists! Children will quickly learn that possibilities are endless when art is involved.



Nurture Nature: Our planet is a special place and requires our care. The children will learn how to protect and care for all living things by exploring the concepts of recycling, reusing, and general conservation. Embark on outdoor journeys to look for animals, plants, and insects.

Activities for Home

- Show your child that you value her artwork. Encourage her to tell you about her artwork. Start the conversation by saying, "Tell me about your picture." Provide art materials and see what your young artist creates at home. Place the materials in an easy-to-reach space so your child can choose to do art on her own. Display the artwork on your refrigerator or another special place at home or at work. The more time children spend creating art, the more they enjoy it!
- Make it a daily ritual to show gratitude for nature's gifts—the sun, trees, flowers, etc. Create a special "Gratitude Day." Find a place where you have a clear view of the rising sun. Wake your child up early to see the sunrise. Build anticipation for the first glimpse of the sun! Take a simple breakfast outdoors. Watch the sun sink below the horizon at sundown. End the day by a window and encourage your child to say good night to the moon, the stars, the animals, or a favorite tree. Express your gratitude for the lovely day!

Look for Books

The best way to learn which books your child enjoys is to read children's books—lots of them! Check out [funshineextras.com](http://www.funshineextras.com) for Book Lists corresponding to each month's themes. Get to know your local librarians and ask for their recommendations as well.

ABCs of Art

by Sabrina Hahn

Flora and the Flamingo

by Molly Idle

Play with Clay!

by Jenny Pinkerton

Music Is...

by Brandon Stosuy

We Are Extremely Very Good Recyclers

by Lauren Child

Trees

by Carme Lemniscates

My Friend Earth

by Patricia MacLachlan

A Stone Sat Still

by Brendan Wenzel

Cooking Together

When cooking with young children, allow them to help in a safe way with mixing, pouring, rolling, mashing, shaking, etc. Use words to describe what you are doing and what you plan to do next. Talk about what you see, smell, feel, hear, and taste.

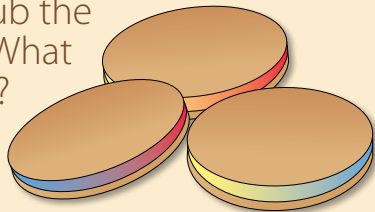
Color Swirl Cookies

vanilla wafer cookies
vanilla frosting or softened cream cheese
red, yellow, and blue food coloring

Divide the frosting into three containers. Make each batch of frosting one of the primary colors. Place a plastic spoon into each one.

Invite your child to take two vanilla wafers and to choose two of the colors of frosting. Spread one color on one wafer, and the other color on the second wafer.

Have her gently rub the wafers together. What color was created? Talk about what happened.



Sing Along with Me

Find these songs at www.funshineexpress.com

I'm an Artist

Sung to "Old MacDonald"

I see a picture in my mind.
I will now create.
It will be mine, one of a kind.
I know it will be great!
I will paint with my own hands.
And when I'm through, you'll see it too!
I see a picture in my mind.
I will now create!



Dandelion Puff

Sung to "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a dandelion, tiny and small,
(Crouch down.)
Growing in the sunshine, stretching tall!
(Slowly stand up.)
My bright yellow blossom turns to fluff,
(Circle arms over head.)
Waiting for the wind to huff and puff!
(Put hands over mouth to blow.)
I'm a dandelion, tiny and small,
(Crouch down.)
Growing in the sunshine, stretching tall!
(Slowly stand up.)
All my little seeds will float away,
(Dance fingers around face.)
Riding on the wind this bright sunny day!
(Move about with outstretched arms.)



Reminders...

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