

THE POWER OF ART:

Exploration with art materials enhances many of the thinking skills required through Common Core Standards:



Children draw, paint and sculpt what they know. As they translate their ideas and feelings into art, they use thinking skills to plan, organize, select media, and represent their impressions. When children draw, paint, and make collages, they experiment with color, line, shape and size. (The Creative Curriculum)

As stated by Lucy Calkins in A Curricular Plan for The Reading Workshop- K, “choice time (in centers such as art, blocks, dramatic play) opens doors so that all students can innovate, approximate, build stamina, and work with zeal on collaborative projects. These are all qualities that are essential to (children’s) development.”



Children are exploring, extending their thoughts and applying their knowledge of many of the key common core math standards through free exploration with a variety of art materials such as:

- Engaging in number concepts- one to one correspondence (K.CC.4)
- Identifying and describing shapes (K.G)
- Building geometry and spatial sense (K.G)
- Analyzing, comparing, **creating and composing** shapes (K.G.)
- **Modeling** shapes in the world by building shapes from components (e.g. sticks and clay balls) (K.G.5)
- Applying measurement skills (describing and comparing measurable attributes, K.MD)
- Exploring concept of classification (classify, count and sort K.MD)



As they collaborate with their peers, they build speaking and listening skills (SL.K) and grow in their vocabulary acquisition and use:

- **Identify and clarify** the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases and identify (L.K.4)
- Identify new meaning for familiar words and **apply** them accurately (L.K.4a)
- **Identify real-life connections** between words and their uses (L.K.5c).



And yet, there is so much more...by engaging in open ended art experiences the children are:



- Building confidence
- Increasing independence
- Thinking deeply and on multiple levels
- Solving Problems
- Welcoming and valuing other's ideas
- Making choices
- Trying out new ideas
- Planning
- Experimenting
- Learning how to demonstrate balance
- Exploring with patterns
- *Representing thoughts and ideas from stories*
- *Retelling a story or making a book*
- *Learning that illustrations on a page in a book are often just as powerful as the words (these ideas deserve a document of their own)*
- *Experiencing the joy of learning!*



3,4 and 5 year old teachers of Union Public Schools- thanks for sharing your student's work that is represented in the pictures of this document.