

## ART EXPERIENCES: Process Art VS Product Art

Process art allows children to experiment with making, exploring and discovering. It might be as simple as learning how to cut, or as complex as painting or gluing. In process art, children can focus on the investigation of the materials and the discovery of the process. It gives them the opportunity to create something based on their own ideas where they can explore and manipulate materials in any safe way that occurs to them. This type of art also provides the children with the means to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

Product art is the opposite, it has a specific finished result which is usually predetermined by an Educator and often the projects look very similar from child to child. Examples of product based activities include colouring pages or 'cookie cutter' art projects such as decorating a heart shaped piece of paper with a lace doily and a poem to give to someone on Valentine's Day. The problem with these product based experiences is that they offer limited or no opportunity for children to express creativity, make decisions for themselves, or experiment with a variety of materials.

Most of the art experiences for young children should be process art. However, not all product based art is unproductive and there may be times in an early childhood environment when it is appropriate.