

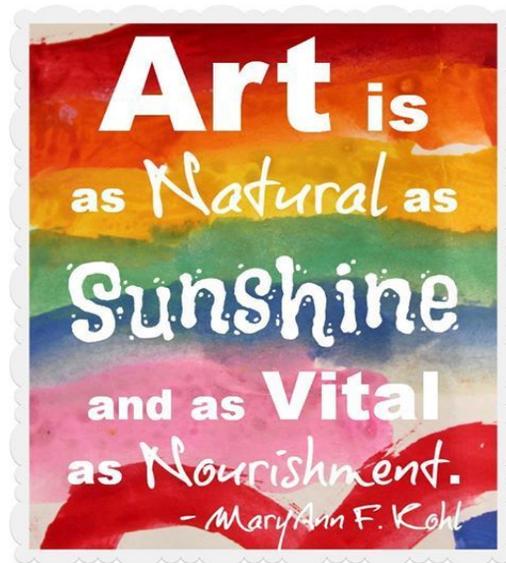
Works Cited

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Why integrate the arts in your own home?



This Brochure goes through a few points on why it is important to integrate the arts into your home and also, give some ideas on how to do it.

Why is it important to incorporate the arts at home?



Many arts-based learning activities can occur outside of the classroom. "Nearly 80 percent of elementary students reported engaging in art-making at home." (Isenberg, 324). Their reasoning was it either made them relax or simply have fun and freely express themselves. You may also have other children in your neighborhood and often times when children are together they create plays, master a craft, or create a game of their own. Whether your child is interested in the Ballet, drawing an animal, or creating something completely original, the need practice and support which comes from the parents and them being able to do this in their home (Isenberg, 324). You as the parent do not have to be the most artistic or the most creative person. But, your child will look up to you and if you are not promoting the arts in your home, they will have no interest in participating in it at school. Your role is to get involved and encourage your children on exploring new things and challenging them to take what is in their brain and express it through music, art, movement/dance.

How to Incorporate it?

One very simple way to use music in your home is to find songs that fit in with what you and your child are doing. For instance, if your child has just finished playing with some toys or, has a messy room that they need to clean. Instead of letting them do it in silence go to YouTube.com and find "clean up" songs. This will help them get familiar with the music, and also have something fun to sing along to as they clean. If you think that is too "babyish" for your child, then simply play a song that is upbeat and dance along with them as you both put things where they belong. This helps them get their blood flowing and also allows you to bond with your child in a silly fun way.



Another way to incorporate the arts is to set time aside for your child to either draw with a coloring book or let them create something on a blank sheet. You could even get them a journal that they can either have factual information or they can be creative and create their own stories. To expand their musical knowledge you could have more classical music in the background, this creates a calm environment and will expand their knowledge of music without distracting them from the task they are doing.

The most important key to incorporating the arts into your house is

being able to create a "safe" environment where they can freely express themselves. Yes, it is YOUR and THEIR home. But, sometimes children can feel self-conscious about their work. If they feel like they will be judged or criticized by anyone as they will most likely not want to share their work and be proud of it. If they feel like they can freely express themselves then the more likely you could get the whole family involved. If a child is not comfortable expressing themselves in their own home. Then the less likely they are to do it around people in a classroom that they barely know.

I think Lucy Llu says it best, "Art can transform lives. It gives us the power to question, to confront, to explore, and to challenge how we think about the world."

