**What is Art?**

- A means of expression
- A thinking tool
- A developmental experience
- A means of communicating culture
- A form of communication

**ART** touches all aspects of children’s development. Art stimulates memory, it enhances communication, it promotes relationships, and it provides a venue for building competence and self-esteem. Art is one of the most natural components of play. These attributes support children in developing innate talents and a level of sophisticated play experiences as well as cultivating curiosity and self-identity (Dietze & Kashin, 2018).

When children engage in art experiences, they explore the principles of design. When they repeat marks on a paper and create a flow in their design, they are exhibiting the principle of rhythm and movement. When children play with balance in their art they are discovering symmetry and asymmetry. The results that come from the use of different and contrasting elements illustrate the principle of variety. Playing with emphasis will make something stand out, such as placing dark beside light or large next to small. Considering how all the aspects of a child’s creation work together is following the principle of unity.

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Green & Kashin, 2018
SHAPE: Examine two-dimensional shapes such as circles and squares.

FORM: Examine how three-dimensional enclosures use space.

LINE: Examine how lines can be made on paper and how different tools produce different lines.

SPACE: Examine how the illusion of space is created through light and shadow.

COLOUR: Examine the colours so that they can be named. Explore the intensity of colour.

TEXTURE: Examine the surface quality and its attributes.

SPATIAL CONCEPTS: Examine right, left, up, down, beside, through, over, and under.

Children need teachers who understand the elements of art. These elements must be considered in the provision of art experiences and when talking to children about their art. Children require a variety of art experiences in order to learn about the concepts of the elements of art. The elements of art correlate with cognitive and language development. Feeling successful about their art experiences contributes to social and emotional development. The use of tools in art supports physical development.

Green & Kashin, 2018