

Why is it important for children to create art?

- When creating art children are strengthening their hand and finger muscles by holding crayons, brushes, and even finger paint. This strength will help them later on with writing.
- Art will help them recognize patterns, size, and shapes, which help them later on with math.
- Asking your child to tell you about their picture will help with language development. You can also prompt new language by describing what they are doing.

Activity: Magic Art

Goal: Oral language, print skills, social emotional skills.

Materials: Paper towel or napkin, markers, container with water.

Directions:

- Start by taking a paper towel and folding it.
- Ask your child what they would like to draw. The example below show a rainbow but you can choose anything you want.
- On the front side of the paper towel you will outline the scenery, in this case the rainbow. Continue by opening the towel and coloring the inside with the different color you want to show.
- Next, you fold the paper towel hiding all the color and only showing the outline.
- Finally, you place the folded towel in the container with water and see how the color magically appears to fill the outline.
- Ask your child to describe what they see, the colors, and share their feelings as the colors appear.
- Encourage your child to draw their own outline. Remember it's not about the end product, it's about the process.

