

Rhode Island Early Learning Standards



Strategies that Support Children in the Area of Creativity

Creative Expression

- Plan a variety of open-ended creative arts activities that foster children's imaginative thinking, problem solving, and self-expression.¹
- Create prop boxes focused on a specific theme such as post office, firehouse, health clinic, or pet store.²
- Structure the activities to accommodate young children's involvement and encourage creativity when leading a story dramatization. For example,
 - ~ allow for the story plot to change as you encourage and include the children's ideas;
 - ~ break the story plot into a series of short scenes or experiences to keep the children focused and involved.³

Tools

- Offer children scarves and streamers to use as they dance to music⁴
- Plan a flexible environment that offers a sufficient range of materials, props, tools, and equipment for creative expression.⁵

Appreciation of the Arts

- Use music to enhance routines and activities. For example, play the same piece of music to signal it is time to clean up and go outdoors. Play music in the art area and encourage children to listen and paint according to the way the music makes them feel.⁶
- Encourage children to talk about their art by commenting on colors, textures, techniques, and patterns and saying, "Tell me about your...." Ask questions about the process, "How did you make these shapes?"⁷

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Head Start Bureau. *The Head Start Leader's Guide to Positive Child Outcomes: Strategies to Support Positive Child Outcomes.* (Washington, D.C September 2003), 76.

² *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 83.

³ *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 83.

⁴ Diane Trister Dodge, Laura Colker & Cate Heroman. *Creative Curriculum for Preschooler.* Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, 2002. 271.

⁵ *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 76.

⁶ *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 78.

⁷ *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 79.