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# Introduction



The joy of creating and self-expression through art provides children with a very positive, active involvement in the learning process.

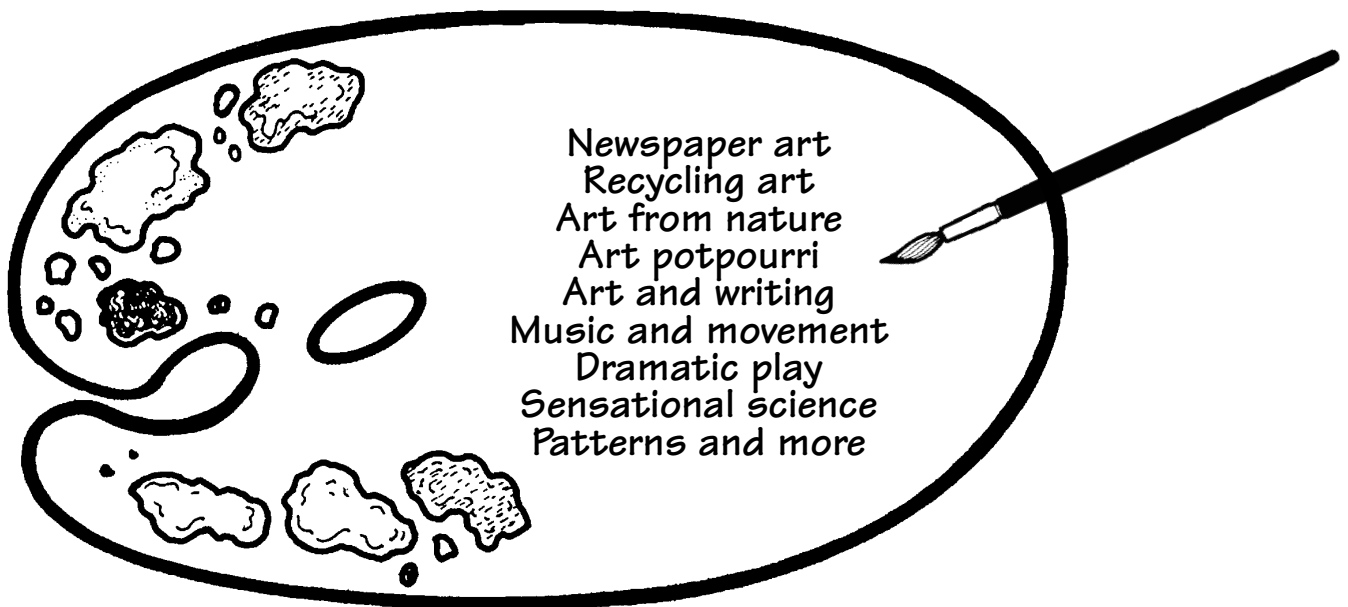
It is important to expose children to experiences in which they are allowed to connect their love of art with purposeful activities that can also be fun to create in school and at home.

We are faced with the ever-present challenge of a restricted budget, especially when it comes to art supplies. The purpose of this book is to provide children with activities that are inexpensive and accessible and to promote creativity and enhance learning as they make memorable projects.

This book is divided into nine sections. Each section contains a variety of activities, many of which are multipurpose. Materials, directions and suggested activities are listed for each project.

Suggestions for what materials to collect, how to store items to be used for crafts or art projects and a list of easily recycled items from home or community are provided.

We know that you and your children will come away with many new, inexpensive and creative ideas for using those materials you may have at one time considered discarding.





# Collecting, storing and recycling materials



## Recycle it!

Use any sturdy cardboard containers and boxes with lids to store materials for use throughout the year. The following boxes are easy to obtain and provide a variety of sizes and shapes from which to choose: grocery boxes, shoeboxes, stationery boxes, supply boxes, photocopier paper boxes and large ice cream containers.

Decorate boxes and lids according to what they contain.

- Use Christmas wrapping paper to decorate boxes that will contain Christmas cards.
- Use newspaper to decorate boxes that will contain old newspapers.
- Decorate a small box with any kind of paper and glue an item or picture on the end to indicate what the box contains. For example, put buttons on a decorated box to indicate that buttons are inside.

If you have available space, line up boxes on shelves so children can easily use them, either to add or take away supplies.

Set boxes on top of lids while materials inside are in use and then use the lids to close and store away materials until they are needed for the next project.





# Collecting, storing and recycling materials *(cont.)*



## Box it!

The following is a list of useful materials to have on hand for any of the projects in this book. Be sure that materials are properly stored in labelled boxes and accessible to parents, teachers and children.

- newspapers and magazines
- used copier paper
- art tissue
- ribbon, string, thread, lace
- pipe cleaners
- glitter, sequins etc.
- buttons
- corn, beans and seeds
- lids (plastic)
- paper goods
- cans
- seashells
- cotton swabs and cotton balls
- play money
- old crayons
- paper bags
- fabric bolts
- pretzels
- milk cartons
- plastic produce containers
- scraps of wrapping paper
- construction paper scraps
- cellophane
- pom-poms
- old keys
- old or used stamps
- wild flowers
- margarine tubs
- soft drink can tabs
- plastic forks and spoons
- small rocks
- toothpicks
- toilet paper/paper towel tubes
- doilies
- leftover decorations from Christmas tree
- round pizza boards
- craft sticks
- macaroni
- egg cartons
- stencils
- styrofoam meat trays
- paper plates
- baby food jars
- bottle tops
- corks
- sponges
- rope
- shoeboxes
- drawing paper
- sandpaper
- cardboard inserts
- beads
- shoelaces
- velcro
- fabric trim
- cotton wool
- empty spools
- buttons
- zippers
- hessian bags
- felt
- leather
- old socks
- cotton fabric
- wool
- plastic fabric
- gumnuts
- pine cones
- dried flowers
- coloured chalk
- old bed sheets
- wire hangers
- nails
- textas
- old toothbrushes
- marbles
- paintbrushes
- hole punch
- poster paint
- plastic bags
- wooden cubes