

# ArtExpress All Around the Sites

Volume 5

Issue 1

September 2000

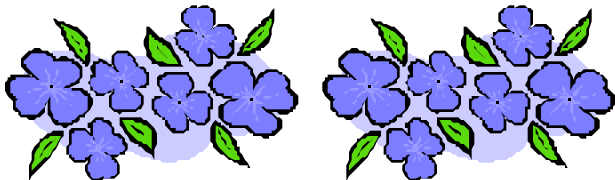


## Good News!

The Expressive Arts Outreach Project was awarded new funding by the U.S. Department of Education. The new funding cycle begins October 1, 2000. The hard work and data that all site staff participants contributed helped to demonstrate the effectiveness of the *ArtExpress* Curriculum Model and inclusion of the expressive arts in early childhood classrooms. The results are now being analyzed and summarized for the final report of the Expressive Arts Outreach Project. Thank you for all your efforts in this very important work. Teachers who have contributed data showing child growth over the past year will receive a report to share with administrators.

## Summer Camp

*ArtExpress* Site Teachers attending the June summer camp had a wonderful time learning about digital cameras, scanning, documenting children's work, traveling with social studies software, reviewing creative software, learning to use *HyperStudio*, exploring new internet sites, using *KidDesk*, experiencing the gadget lab, playing with expressive art materials, and more. An evening cookout at Judy Potter's house provided a relaxed time for everyone to laugh, take a walk in flower gardens or woods, eat good food, and make new friends.



## Let's Celebrate

The Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education invites you to attend an Open House and Reception October 5, 2000, from 3-5 p.m., in Horrabin Hall, Room 1. We will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Dr. Patricia Hutinger's leadership as Director of the Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education. Refreshments will be served.

## Summer Class

In August **Project NOW Head Start** Staff from Silvis, Moline, Kewanee, and Aledo participated in the class ECH 275 - *Technology Workshop for Young Children* at Western Illinois University. Those who registered for the class received one hour of undergraduate credit. Students who participated in this course developed technology skills for documenting children's work and designed a classroom computer activity for their preschool children. Each participant learned how to do an Activity Plan and a Technology Integration Plan. They also had an opportunity to explore and review software related to the expressive arts.

## Classroom Activities

**Shannon Kellogg** (Northwestern ECE Program, Good Hope, IL) reports that there are sizzling art activities to be had on the playground during warm months. Shannon takes her children outside with crayons and paper. The children place paper on warm metal slides and let crayons melt on the paper surface. They even use cookie sheets that have been sitting in the sun to do this activity. Melted crayons on paper is remarkably similar to the more complicated encaustic process which involves suspended pigment in melted beeswax.



Other children explore textures as they use crayons and paper on the warm sidewalk. The melted crayon

technique can also be done in the classroom with a warming tray. However the warm slide or cookie sheet ideas make the activity more accessible to several children at a time without the need for full-time adult supervision. Great idea, Shannon!

**Sue Craig** (Avon ECE Program, Avon, IL) wrapped up the end of the last school year with several fun activities. They included a pizza project and a trip to the zoo.

During the pizza project the class made paper pizzas. Some good books to read with this project include: *Pizza! Pizza!* by William Steig and *Pizza Pat* by Rita Golden-Gelman. The class discussed the shape of pizza and the different kinds of toppings that can be placed on a pizza. The children spent several days drawing and discussing pizza and then took a field trip to the Wareco Pizza Station where each made and ate an individual pizza. The following day, the children made a thank you card for the Pizza Station. Each child drew his or her favorite pizza topping on a large pizza shaped construction paper card.



Sue's class ended the year by taking a field trip to a zoo. Before the event took place, Sue facilitated discussion and drawing of animals the children thought they would see at the zoo. When the children returned to the classroom following their trip, they drew their favorite animal. A wide variety of art materials were made available to the children for independent exploration. Glue and collage materials seemed to be the most popular choices to create zoo pictures.



## Data

Child data and family questionnaire forms will be sent to you within the next week. Please complete these and mail them by October 15, 2000. Thank you.

## Children's Sketchbooks

Teachers, parents, and children can look at children's progress made over time when

sketchbooks are used in the classroom. Sketchbooks encourage children to look, listen, observe, and document what is going on in their surroundings. Many children enjoy drawing and can develop a sense of time and history as they go back to rework or visit drawings again. A clipboard with several sheets of paper can be assembled for observational drawings and drawings on-the-go. Larger paper can be folded in half and stapled together like a book for exploring themes or keeping a day's worth of artwork together. Finished work can be put in a three ring binder with the use of a hole punch; but for a few dollars more, artwork can be placed in plastic sleeves that protect work from oils and dirt. Another storage option is creating "baggy books" by stapling plastic bags together with the zip side facing out and binding the opposite end with colored tape to protect fingers from staple scratches.

## Coming Events

**September 11, 2000**—ArtExpress Follow-up Training conducted by Expressive Arts Outreach Staff at NOW Head Start, Silvis, Illinois.

**September 28-29, 2000**—ArtExpress Training Workshop conducted by the Expressive Arts Outreach Staff at Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois.

**October 5, 2000**—Open House and Reception for the 25th Anniversary of The Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois.

**October 16, 2000**—Judy Potter and Carol Schneider will present "Children - Art - Technology: See What We Can Do!" at the Illinois Education and Technology Conference, Springfield, Illinois.

**October 21, 2000**—Judy Potter and Carol Schneider will present "Draw a Story, Dance a Poem: Integrate Expressive Arts through Technology" at the Closing the Gap Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**October 27, 2000**—Judy Potter and Carol Schneider will present "I Can Do It - You Can Too!" at the Illinois AEYC Conference in Peoria, Illinois.