



MY ART GALLERY

Materials you need:

- Empty cardboard boxes – small enough for children to handle easily. Cover boxes in plain brown paper or butchers' paper.
- Glue sticks
- Collection of the child's artwork and some photos of them engaged in play
- Textas/Coloured Markers
- A few speech bubble shapes cut from thin cardboard (optional)

Setup for play:

- Spread out the boxes in a large open area so the children have plenty of space to create.
- Give each child a basket of their artwork and include a few photos if you have them.
- Encourage the children to choose the work they would like to feature in their art gallery to display.
- Use glue sticks to paste an artwork or photo (or both) onto each side of the box. Try not to interfere unless asked for help. It doesn't matter if the pictures overlap or things look 'messy'. This activity is about the children's self-expression, creativity and choices.
- Provide pens in case they would like to draw on their boxes and you might like to include their own words describing their art in the speech bubbles to also glue onto the boxes.
- If you have a large collection of boxes encourage the children to create more than one box if they want to.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children make their own art gallery they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Gain confidence
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Listen to and follow directions
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and play
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Express their ideas creatively
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Extending the play:

- Work together to set up an art gallery with the boxes to show families.
- Show the children how to use cameras or video to record the making of their boxes through to the display stage.

