

**This letter would work for you if you are making the switch from copycat crafts to more creative art. Please edit to suit your needs**

## **Dear Parents**

Welcome to \_\_\_\_\_. We look forward to sharing a wonderful year together. As the year is just beginning, we thought it would be a good time to share with you some insights into the way we will be running our art program this year.

Many of you who have been through pre-school with other children are used to your children coming home with standard types of art projects. This year, the majority, (or all) of the children's projects will be done by the children and by the children only, and may not look as perfect as you are used to. Some of their projects may very well be recognizable and others may look like just a bunch of stuff glued together,. As a result we would like to give you a short explanation of why we will be doing art this way.

Our art program this year will be a child development-based one using creative art. We will be doing projects with the children that are developmentally appropriate for their ages and therefore may often not look too beautiful. Young children are really not capable of thinking up so many of those project ideas themselves. By allowing the children the freedom, within a definite structure, to create what they are able to at their ages, we are accomplishing a number of important goals:

1. We are encouraging good self esteem in the children. When children see that we trust them enough for them to create at their own level PLUS they can tell which project is theirs among many, this makes them feel good about themselves. Everyone knows that children who feel good about themselves function at a higher level and feel more confident in any task they may take on.
2. We are encouraging thinking and problem solving skills. As children learn to create on their own with very subtle guidance from teachers they are learning to think for themselves. Even a young child who has to decide what to do with collage materials is making beginning choices that will only encourage more advanced choices and learning as s/he grows.
3. We are also allowing for release of energy, tension and creative expression through art. There's a great deal more to say on this topic and we hope to share more in the coming months but these few points should give you an idea of why we have chosen to do art this way.

Thank you