

# BAM Classroom from Home

## LITTLE ARTISTS



Learn, play, and get messy with a summer camp for our littlest artists! This series of art activities is dedicated to creating art that is all about the process. We hope this at home curriculum will help you make art with your family, experiment with your senses, and learn through play!

### This classroom is for...

Artists, inventors, and explorers from 2 – 6 years old (and their grown-ups!)

### How this works:

Because we are unable to host summer camps at BAM this year, we thought we would offer our curriculum to our community! In this document, we have suggestions for craft activities including supply lists and instructions, book and video recommendations, resources, and MORE for families to learn together. At the end of this document, we have our own classroom timeline with how we would organize a week at BAM—you can use that as guidance or get creative and do your own thing!

Whether you pick one activity, pick a few, or do them all, we would love to see your work and will be sharing them in our Youth and Family emails! Send questions, comments, and photos of your art to [education@bellevuearts.org](mailto:education@bellevuearts.org).

### Activities for this week:

Nature Self-Portraits  
Ice Painting

Jell-O Prints  
Homemade Playdough

### MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS WEEK

#### Art supplies:

- Tempera paint
- Butcher paper or construction paper
- Paintbrush
- Scissors
- Heavy paper (cardstock works well)

#### Recycled or found at home:

- Leaves, flowers, pinecones, and other found natural objects
- Paper
- Glue
- Ice cube tray
- Popsicle sticks
- Large plastic bin or outdoor patio

- Towels
- Unflavored gelatin
- Water
- Spoon
- Bowl
- Shallow pan, like a 9x13-inch baking dish
- Refrigerator and freezer

- Newspaper/table cover
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups lukewarm water
- 2 Tablespoons vegetable oil
- Food coloring

# NATURE SELF-PORTRAITS



## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Leaves, flowers, pinecones, and other found natural objects
- Paper
- Glue

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Go on a nature walk to collect flowers, leaves, pinecones, sticks, and any other found objects.
2. Arrange the natural found objects to look like your face. What objects can you use to make your eyes, nose, and mouth?
3. Glue the pieces down to the paper and let your portrait dry in a safe location
4. Find somewhere to hang your beautiful artwork!

## Additional Ideas & Suggestions:

- If you have enough materials, consider making a portrait for each family member.
- Instead of glueing down the natural material, you could continue to use them to practice learning about faces and facial expressions.

# ICE PAINTING



## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Ice cube tray
- Popsicle sticks
- Tempera paint
- Butcher paper or construction paper
- Large plastic bin or outdoor patio
- Towels
- Freezer

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin by mixing your ice paints! In an ice cube tray, put about a tablespoon of each color of tempera paint in each cube mold. If you only have the primary colors (red, blue, and yellow), you can mix them together to make additional colors.
2. Put a popsicle stick into each section and gently pour water on top of the paints. Don't stir the water and paint together.
3. Place your ice cube trays in the freezer and allow to freeze overnight.
4. Set up your artmaking station! This is a messy craft, so we suggest doing this outside, on a large sheet tray, or on a table covered with newspaper. Make sure you have paper towels or rags available for cleanup!
5. Remove the ice cube tray from the freezer and carefully pull out each cube from the tray.
6. Have your little artist paint by grabbing on to the popsicle stick! Let the fun and creativity begin!
7. Once your art is complete, let it dry completely. If the paints didn't get used up, you can put the ice cubes back into the tray and the freezer to use again!

## Additional Ideas & Suggestions:

- What does this feel like? Does the ice cube move smoothly around the paper or is it difficult to push? Focus on the movement and feel of the paint while you are making your art!
- Can you create an image with your ice paint? Some inspiration might be a favorite story book character, a friend, or nature!

# JELL-O PRINTS



## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Unflavored gelatin
- Water
- Spoon
- Bowl
- Shallow pan, like a 9x13-inch baking dish
- Refrigerator
- Newspaper/table cover
- Acrylic or tempera paint
- Paintbrush
- Scissors
- Heavy paper (cardstock works well)
- Found objects, like flowers or leaves, for texture

## INSTRUCTIONS

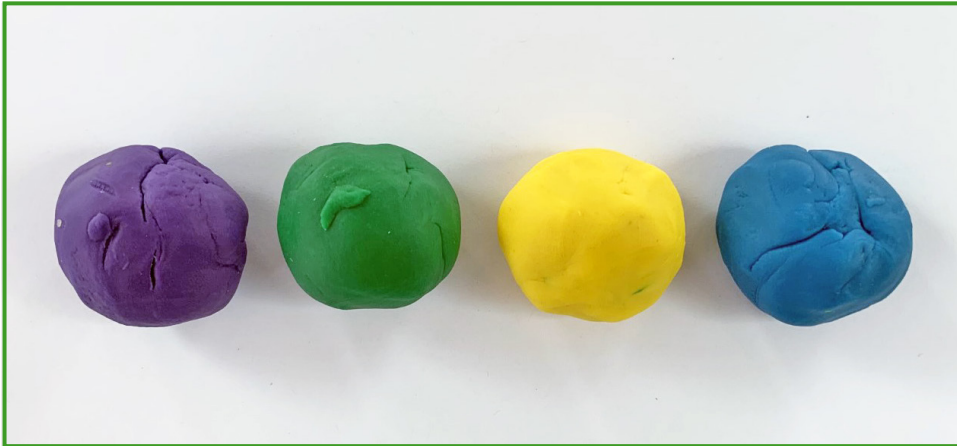
1. Create your gelatin printing plate! Measure how much water it would take to fill up your pan about 1 inch thick. A 9x13-inch baking dish will require about 4 cups of water to do this.
2. Boil the above amount of water.
3. While your water is heating up, measure out your gelatin. Use 2 tablespoons of gelatin for every 1 cup of water. (That would mean 8 tablespoons for your 9x13 baking dish).
4. In your empty baking dish, sprinkle in your gelatin, and then pour in your hot water. Stir to let the gelatin dissolve. Allow the gelatin to set completely, preferably overnight in the refrigerator.
5. Once your gelatin printing plate is set, carefully remove it from your pan and set it on your artmaking surface. We suggest using a table cover, as this activity can get messy!
6. Dollop some paint onto your gelatin surface and spread a thin layer evenly over the printing plate using a paintbrush or your hands.
7. Create your design using any of the following techniques:
  - Use your paintbrush to draw designs in the paint. Doing this will remove paint from certain areas, making an interesting image!
  - Use cut paper to create stencils. Place your paper stencils over the paint.
  - Use flat found objects instead of paper stencils. Use leaves, ferns, flowers, and other natural materials to create stencils.
8. Once you're happy with your design, gently place a sheet of paper on your painted gelatin print plate. Rub the top of the paper firmly to transfer the paint to your paper. Peel away your paper to reveal your design!

## Additional Ideas & Suggestions:

- Can you do multiple prints without reapplying the paint? How do your second or third prints look different than your first print? Which do you like the best?
- How can you make interesting textures with this printing technique?



# SENSORY PLAY *with homemade playdough*



## PLAY DOUGH INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups lukewarm water
- 2 Tablespoons vegetable oil
- Food coloring

## OTHER SUPPLIES:

- Large pot
- Large mixing bowl, gallon-sized bag, or large sheet of wax paper
- Quart-sized ziplock bag(s) for coloring the dough

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Stir together the flour, salt, and cream of tartar in a large pot. Next, add the water and oil.
2. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue stirring until the dough has thickened and begins to form into a ball. Remove from heat and then place in a bowl or gallon-sized bag, or onto a sheet of wax paper.
3. Allow to cool slightly. Once it is cool enough to touch, knead until smooth. To add color, divide the dough into balls (for how many colors you want) and then add each dough and five drops of food coloring into a quart-sized bag. Add more food coloring to brighten it. Knead the dough inside the bag so it doesn't stain your hands. Once it's all mixed together, you're ready to play!
4. Store the playdough inside the bags to keep soft. If stored properly it will keep soft for up to 3 months.

## Additional ideas and questions:

- What can you create with your playdough? Maybe some critters? A leaf or a flower?
- Can you make a square, a circle or another shape?

## IDEAS

- Sink or Float: In the bathtub or a large bin of water, test out whether different objects will sink or float. We suggest using sponges, toys, leaves, scrap paper, and objects found around the home!
- Sort shapes, patterns, and colors: Find objects like socks, pillows, and toys from around your home. With your little artist, categorize the objects by putting similar objects together. A great activity for learning about comparing and contrasting.
- Add imagination and make-believe!: Take a large cardboard box and create a story! Is your box a boat and is the floor the ocean? Perhaps it's a spaceship and you're in outer space? Or maybe your box is a bus or train and it is taking you to your favorite place. What do you see, and what might you need to bring with you?
- Sneaky Statues game: A BAM classic! Pick one person to be the security guard at BAM; everyone else is a statue. When the security guard's back is turned, all the statues can move around and get into silly statue poses. Once the security guard turns around, FREEZE! The security guard can walk around the gallery to see all the wacky statues, which seem to keep changing.

## PODCASTS

- Sesame Street Podcast
- Wow in the World Podcast
- Peace Out Podcast

## WEBSITES & VIDEOS

- Storytime videos at [KidsQuest Children's Museum](#)
- Storytime videos at [The Conscious Kid](#)
- [Low-Prep Activities for Kids](#) by Happy Toddler Playtime
- [Get Moving with BAM](#) videos on our BAM from Home page!

## BOOKS

- *Dream Big, Little One* by Vashti Harrison
- *Carmela Full of Wishes* by Matt de la Peña
- *Adventures with Barefoot Critters* by Teagan White
- *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Secret Pizza Party* by Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri

# HOME CLASSROOM PLAN

## Day 1:

- Make your ice painting trays and learn about mixing colors
- Listen to a podcast!
- Eat a snack and refuel for more art making.
- Go on a quest to find natural found objects; you can go to a park, your backyard, or just walk down your street!
- Use the objects you found in nature to create your Nature Self Portrait.
- Play the Sneaky Statues game!
- Finish up today's classroom with a storytime!

## Day 2:

- Complete steps 1 – 4 of Jell-O Prints.
- Get your wiggles out with a Get Moving with BAM video!
- Snack time after all your hard work stretching and moving!
- Get started on your ice painting.
- Storytime! Use your imagination to create a story to go along with the imagination and make-believe prompt under “More Ways to Engage.”

## Day 3:

- Start today's classroom from home with a dance party! Freeze Dance is one of our favorite games at BAM!
- Listen to a podcast or music while doing Jell-O print steps 5 – 12.
- It's everyone's favorite time—snack time!
- Sensory play—make your homemade playdough and see what shapes you can create.
- Finish up today's classroom with a storytime!