

ART CURRICULUM

An exemplary art program is a component of the curriculum at the at the Children's House. Early art education is valued as a highly effective method in helping children achieve a better understanding of themselves and their world. Children are offered many opportunities to create art, to look at and talk about art and to become aware of art in their everyday lives.

At the core of our art curriculum lies art historian Jonathan Fineberg's study "The Innocent Eye." This study reveals how many advanced modern artists, including Picasso, Matisse, Klee, Kandinsky and Miro, not only looked to children's art for ideas, but they also borrowed heavily from children's drawings. Establishing, in the children's minds, the link between children's art and modern art is key in motivating their artistic expression. Through the study of Picasso and Matisse the children learn about brushstrokes and movement. These artists' works provide examples of portrait, landscape and still life. Through the study of abstract art, the children learn to identify the visual elements of line, shape, color and texture.

So as to help children realize their own artistic potential, our art program sets out first to help children explore the qualities of art materials, especially acrylic paint and the variety of techniques to which it lends itself, and then to use this knowledge in making images of importance to them. Children's canvases and framed paintings are displayed in galleries throughout the building.

