



EXPLORING MATERIALS THAT ARE BLACK

HAVE YOU
SEEN OUR ALL
ARTWORK IN
THE HALLWAY
NEAR THE
STUDIO OR
OUTSIDE THE
CLASSROOMS?



In the Stock School Studio, the students have been making discoveries using the color **BLACK**! These include experimenting with unique art materials like CHARCOAL, Permanent Markers, Oil Pastels, Watercolor Paint and India Ink! Sometimes, we tend to steer away from the color black, because it can make everything seem dingey or can be messy... but what would we learn if we embraced the mess?!

While we have learned how to handle these materials in a typical way, what discoveries would we make if we tried something new and different?

So far in this study, we have learned that black is the color we see when our eyes are closed. It is the absence of light! We also experimented and discovered that black does take over and makes all other colors black...including our own skin color when we use charcoal! (Many students have left here a little sooty!) We have "doodled" new lines and made marks in places all over the studio! Next up... black watercolor and INDIA INK!

Why stick with the rainbow when BLACK can do so many amazing things!

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

What is the Stock STUDIO?

Why do we study Black? What is Process Art?
And why do we let children get messy?
Keep Reading!





INTRODUCING THE STOCK STUDIO

Curiosity and Imagination in ACTION!

We are thrilled to be offering this amazing studio program, in it's FOURTH year, encouraging our students to use their imagination and to be creative in the Stock School Studio!! In this space, **working in small groups**, we have begun open ended explorations of art materials with "no rules," moving toward learning the way to use and control those materials in a more productive way! Students to make their own discoveries about the PROCESS of using of a material on a grand scale, (like mark making around the whole classroom,) before they learn how to control their materials. This bridges the gap between abstract curiosity and concrete skills, which they can take with them into other parts of their learning!

Along with the color Black, the materials we will study this year are Clay, Light and Shadow and then Photography! In each session, **ALL** Stock students will participate and be exposed to the process of creation. They will have time to express themselves through the material and experience the JOY of creating in the Stock Studio!

Ask your child's teacher when it is their Studio day so you can be ready for them to get MESSY! As all of preschool can be! And watch your SeeSaw for examples of their creative experiences! Always feel free to ask questions about what we are doing! Come down for a visit!



WHY SHOULD CHILDREN EXPLORE THE COLOR BLACK?

Last year, I noticed that children were gravitating toward the color black in many of their creations. As an early childhood educator, I would pull it out of their color palettes because I knew it would make all of their creations gray and stop them from seeing the magic of color mixing! But then I had to ask myself...why? If they want it, let's just give it to them and see what happens? Plus, they just love the richness of the deep, dark and inviting hue! Doing some research on the concept, I found some wonderful benefits! Here's a smattering:

- **High Contrast:** Black and white are the highest-contrast colors, which train young eyes and brains to recognize sharp borders and shapes.
- **Early Literacy:** Spotting the difference between light and dark helps children later distinguish individual letters of the alphabet on a printed page.
- **Color Blending:** Adding black to their other colors changes the shade, or see how dark and light effect other colors.
- **Overcoming Fear of the Dark:** Young children often feel uneasy around darkness because they cannot see well. Teaching them about positive black objects (like a cozy night sky, sweet blackberries, or their own shiny hair) eases anxiety about dark spaces.

HERE IS A LINK TO AN AMAZING ARTICLE!

[TEACH KIDS ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE BLACK IN COLOUR BY EUROKIDS](#)

WHAT IS PROCESS ART?

Letting our children get messy!

Much of what we do in the Studio seems like we are just "making a mess" but there is so much learning in what we are doing, while instilling a free exploration of materials in a special way they may never get to experience outside of Stock School! This is their PROCESS! Our preschoolers are hands on and curious learners. They use their creative skills with unique materials developing abstract concepts. This reinforces the idea that their thoughts and perspectives are valuable and worthy of expression, which is one of the goals of the Studio program! Exploring materials in an open ended way to express themselves, helps preschoolers achieve confidence and independence as a learner! Yes, it gets MESSY! But that is why the process is important!

Process art is a creative, open-ended activity where the focus is entirely on the experience, exploration, and creation rather than the final product.

- **No expected result:** There is no sample, template, or "right" way for the artwork to look.
- **Child-led:** Children choose the materials, colors, and methods freely.
- **Focus on action:** The value lies in mixing, smearing, gluing, tearing, and discovering how materials interact.
- **Opposite of product art:** Traditional "craft" or product art gives children step-by-step instructions to replicate an adult's predefined sample.

Why Should Children Get Messy?

- **Sensory development:** Messy play with paint, clay, or foam activates multiple areas of the brain and builds vital neural connections.
- **Builds confidence and autonomy:** Making independent choices without fear of "doing it wrong" fosters problem-solving and self-esteem.
- **Emotional expression:** Safe, unstructured mess gives kids an outlet to release energy and communicate feelings they cannot put into words.
- **Strengthens fine motor skills:** Squeezing, grasping, mixing, and tearing materials develop the hand muscles needed for future writing.

PROCESS ART IN PRESCHOOL: WHY MESSY ART SUPPORTS LEARNING



contact me on SeeSaw or | jsnykiel-donlin@cps.edu
JENNIFER DONLIN, STUDIO TEACHER

