

Week One Theme: Drawing & Painting (See pgs 28-33 in 2025 manual)

Objective: To encourage creativity of all sorts, to introduce writing concepts, and to be aware of the world of color & beauty all around us.

Read:

Alma's Art by Roda Ahmed

The Artist by Ed Vere

The Artivist by Nikkolas Smith

Becoming Blue by Ellen Tarlow

Gray by Laura Dockrill

Mix it Up by Herve Tullet

Monet's Cat by Lily Murray

Mouse Paint/Pinta ratones by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Oh, Olive by Lian Cho

Activities

Five Little Crayons (Rhyme/Fingerplay) (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

To the tune of "Five Little Ducks." Repeat with a new color for each verse until there's only one crayon left. Piggyback lyrics from Janet Reynolds of Library District #2 of Linn County in La Cygne, KS.

Five little crayons were playing one day

Drawing on paper, enjoying the play.

The red one said, I'm done, done, done.

That left four little crayons having fun. [...repeat with orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, purple]

The purple one said I'm done, done, done

Then no more little crayons having fun!

Dot Stickers (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

Stick one or two dot stickers on a piece of construction paper (or glue down paper circles), then ask children to imagine a picture using those dots; provide crayons or pencils to complete the picture. Alternatively, hang pieces of colored construction paper on the wall and ask them to add matching dot stickers. Supplies: construction paper, crayons, pencils, sticker dots or small circles cut out of construction paper

Paint with Me (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

To the tune of "This Old Man." Children mime painting with a brush. Piggyback lyrics from CSLP and Beth Deaner-Cohen of Queens Public Library at Glen Oaks in Queens, NY.

Grab your brush, paint with me

Paint a flower, paint a tree

Paint it fast and paint it slow, paint up high and low

How we love to paint, let's go

Painting/chalking rocks

Consider asking teen volunteers to assist with this project - also consider taking this project outside if you have the space and cooperative weather.

Provide a collection of rocks and tempera paint & brushes, tempera sticks (less mess!), chalk, Stabilo Woody colored pencils (water soluble - can paint over the mark with water to soften the lines/make a painterly project), and other mark-making materials. Encourage children and caregivers to make marks on the rocks and take them home, display them in the library, give them to neighbors, etc. Provide a few examples, but encourage young artists and their caregivers to create their own projects based on their own ideas.

Color play

Provide multiple sheets of brightly colored plastic/acetate and encourage participants to play with color mixing - what happens when we put the yellow sheet over the blue one? What happens if we replace the yellow sheet with a red one? What happens when we stack a bunch of colors together? This might be a fun activity to set out for the entire summer or to bring out at the end of future storytimes.

Message for parents & caregivers

Science tells us that engaging in any creative activity - art, crafting, music, storytelling, dance, etc - strengthens mental, physical & emotional health and improves the overall sense of well-being.

Suggested reading for adults: *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us* by Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross (2023).

- Neuroaesthetics, a recently coined term, is the scientific study of the neural consequences of contemplating a creative work of art. It's the serious scientific study of how our brains react to making and viewing arts of all kinds.

Week Two Theme: Fiber & Wearables (See pgs 69-76 in 2025 manual)

Objective: To introduce the concept of personal self and textures.

Read

Ellie Mae Dreams Big! by Kristina McMorriss
A Garden in My Hands by Meera Sriram
A Gift for Nai Nai by Kim-Hoa Ung
Knitting for Dogs by Laurel Molk.
Mr. Lion Dresses Up / Leo se viste by Britta Teckentrup
Patchwork Prince by Baptiste Paul
Spin a Scarf of Sunshine by Dawn Casey and Stila Lim
Three Balls of Wool by Cristina Henriqueta
Very Good Hats by Emma Straub
Under My Hood I Have a Hat by Karla Kuskin
What We Wear When We Take Care by Sarah Finan

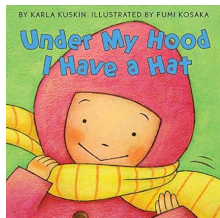
Activities:

The Hat Song (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

To the tune of "This Old Man." Repeat with elbows, knees, feet, etc. until the last verse, which makes a good transition to reading a story. Lyrics from Jbrary on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/4bs5Suy>

On my head, I wear my hat,
It is such a silly hat,
What my head wiggle waggles to and fro
Where else can my silly hat go? [...fill in with participants' suggestions]

On my hands, I wear my hat,
It is such a quiet hat,
That my hands don't wiggle,
They just go clap,
Then I fold them in my lap.



Under My Hood I have a Hat - prop story

Read the book Under My Hood I Have a Hat and then re-tell it using props (hoodie, stocking cap, etc). As you reveal each prop, encourage children to finish the sentence with the name of the object.

Sock Puppets (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

Children decorate sock puppets with markers and by gluing on felt shapes, yarn, and other objects. When finished, children can play with their puppets. Supplies: socks, markers, yarn, felt shapes, white glue, pom poms, googly eyes, fabric glue or tacky glue. Encourage children to create their own puppet show, re-enact one of the storytime books, or interact compassionately with each other.

Experiment with wool roving

Pass out cotton-ball sized chunks of wool roving to participants and ask them to feel, squish, and stretch it. What does it feel like? What color is it? What happens when we tear it apart? Can we rub it back together? Send roving home with participants or use it for a handmade stuffy program for older children.

Optional: Add a few drops of dish soap to bowls of warm water and encourage children to stretch, pull, and roll it into felt balls or other shapes. These can be dried and strung into garlands.

Play Dress-Up/Fashion Show

Provide a collection of dress-up clothes, pieces of fabric, scarves, hats, upholstery tassels, costume jewelry and other items and encourage children to dress up and create their own wearables. Provide different types of fabric (velvet, satin, denim, fluffy wool, polyester, etc.) to encourage participants to feel a variety of textures. Play some music and have a fashion show. Encourage parents/caregivers to take pictures and use a hashtag, i.e., #LibraryJoy, #MyTownPublicLibrary, when posting on social media. Take photos of the fun, avoiding close-ups of faces, for your library's publicity.

Message for parents & caregivers

When possible, set parameters and allow children to choose their own clothing, "do you want the red or blue shirt today?" This helps children see that they have autonomy and is an early introduction to self-expression.

Week Three Theme: Photography (See pgs 108 - 113 in 2025 manual)

Objective: To introduce informational text and very early nonfiction concepts

Read:

Bellies (Whose Is It?) by Katrine Crow

Below by Nina Crews

Being Frog by April Pulley Sayre

Colors! by Shelly Rotner

Foodie Faces by Bill Wurtzel

In Between by April Pulley Sayre

The Kindest Red: A Story of Hijab and Friendship by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali

Show the World! by Angela Dalton

Watch This! A Book About Making Shapes by Jane Godwin

The Worm Family Has its Picture Taken by Jennifer Frank

Activities:

Picture Pokey (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

To the tune of "Hokey Pokey." Piggyback lyrics from Angela Germany of West Baton Rouge Parish Library in Port Allen, LA.

You put a smile on, you take your smile off
You put your smile on and you shake yourself about
You do the picture pokey and you turn yourself around
That's what it's all about!
You put a mean face on, you take your mean face off
You put your mean face on and you shake yourself about
You do the Picture Pokey and you turn yourself around
That's what it's all about!
You put a silly face on, you take your silly face off,
You put your silly face on and you shake yourself about
You do the Picture Pokey and you turn yourself around
That's what it's all about!
Let's strike a pose now, let's strike another pose now,
You take a pretty picture then shake yourself about
That's what it's all about!

Photography Dots (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

Provide dot markers (or regular markers), crayons, and photocopies of enlarged black & white photographs. Children add colorful dots and marks to the black & white photos however they like.

DIY Photo Frames (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

Precut 5 x 7 picture frames out of cardboard and leave them out next to art supplies. Children decorate the frames with crayons, paint, markers, etc. They can then source photos from home, or you can leave out 5 x 7-inch cuttings from magazines for them to choose from. Provide pieces of clear plastic or cardboard that can be attached to the back to hold photos in place.

Picture Day

Pull out your collection of hats, scarves, and other dress-up clothes; enlist the help of teen volunteers and take “school photos” of participants - and parents/caregivers, too! Collect email addresses, phone numbers, and send/text photos of children to their grown-ups. Consider: with permission, create a photo exhibit in the storytime area before the next scheduled program. Disassemble the display after the program ends to protect children’s privacy.

Message for parents/caregivers: Young children are fascinated by their own faces and the faces of other children from around the world. Looking at photos allows children to see themselves as individuals in a world made up of many other people.

Week Four Theme: 3D Art and Decor (See pgs 141 - 147 in 2025 manual)

Objective: To introduce concepts of making-by-hand, shapes and spatial awareness and to draw attention to dwelling places and senses of safety and home.

Read:

Ari Arranges Everything by Katie Verno
A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams
Cityscape: Where Art and Science Meet by April Pulley Sayre
Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Winter
Kimchi, Kimchi Every Day by Erica Kim
A Life Made by Hand: The Story of Ruth Asawa by Andrea D'Aquino
Someone Builds the Dream by Lisa Wheeler
Too Much Stuff! by Emily Gravett
What Love Looks Like by Laura Obuobi
What Will These Hands Make? by Nikki McClure

Activities:

Shapes Song (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

A nursery rhyme to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell."
A circle's like a ball
A circle's like a ball
Roll and roll it never stops
A circle's like a ball.
A square is like a box,
A square is like a box,
It has four sides that are the same.
A square is like a box.
A triangle has three sides,
A triangle has three sides,
Up the mountain, then back down
A triangle has three sides.
A rectangle has four sides,
A rectangle has four sides,
Two are long, and two are short.
A rectangle has four sides.

I'm a Little Builder (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

To the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot." Piggyback lyrics from Michelle Minervini of The Bryant Library in Roslyn, NY.

I'm a little builder, I use blocks
Start at the bottoms, build to the tops
When I get excited and build too tall
My blocks do wiggle and then they fall

Do: Mulberry paper greeting cards (Great project for teen volunteer assistance)

Erica Kim uses traditional Korean paper made from mulberry leaves In the book *Kimchi, Kimchi Everyday*. Provide scraps of mulberry paper, glue sticks, and cardstock paper folded to a standard greeting card size. Help participants tear and glue scraps of paper to the front in interesting designs to the front of the card. Provide markers & pencils for participants to write messages inside the card to grandparents, friends or a favorite children's book creator, such as Erica Kim. Bonus: also provide envelopes and stamps.

Block play

Set out blocks, Quatro-bricks, cardboard boxes, and other child-appropriate building toys and encourage children to use their imagination to create and build. Can we sort the items by color, size, and shape? How high can we build? How many blocks did we use? Let's draw the things we make! Consider asking teen volunteers to help with this activity.

Shape play

Use die cuts, or hand-cut, basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle) from colored paper or acetate and encourage children to make designs and collages from the shapes. Spray water on a glass window to adhere the acetate designs.

Play literacy/Creative play

Set out play kitchen, library, post office, school, grocery store, and household items for free-style interactive creative play at the end of storytime and encourage kids to use their imagination and go for it!

Message for parents and caregivers:

We give our young children a running start to kindergarten when we help them learn about the basic shapes and their proper names. Working with shapes is an early introduction to STEAM concepts.

Week Five Theme: Writing/Storytelling (See pgs 178 - 182 in 2025 manual)

Objective: To celebrate everyone's story and to highlight grandparents, elders, and those who came before us.

Read:

As Edward Imagined by Matthew Burgess
Chester's Masterpiece by Mélanie Watt
Gaga Mistake Day by Emma Straud
My Hair is a Book by Maisha Oso
Noura's Crescent Moon by Zainab Khan
Seoul Food by Erin Russell
Under the Table by Allan Ahlberg
When you Love a Book by Kaz Windness
You Are a Story by Bob Raczka
You're So Amazing by James Catchpole

Activities:

Song: There's a Little Wheel a Turning/ Song a Singing in My Heart.

There's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart
There's a little wheel a turning' in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
There's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart

There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart
There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart

There's a little song a singin' in my heart
There's a little wheel a singin' in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
There's a singin' in my heart

Oh I feel so very happy in my heart
Oh I feel so very happy in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
Oh I feel so very happy in my heart
(repeat first verse)

ASL tutorial for Little Wheel a Turning:

https://youtu.be/-VkPPo_169g?si=u2UMYHpDY_Rpy9mo

Play-Doh Letters (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

Place Play-Doh (or any other clay-like material) on cookie sheets alongside laminated letters. Children experiment with forming clay letters that match the templates. Supplies: Play-Doh (or similar), laminated letters, cookie sheets.

Personalized Name Plates (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

Children create personalized name plates that reflect their personalities. Write the letters for each child's name on construction paper in bubble letters, naming the letters as you write them. Children then personalize their name plate by filling in the letters and adding decorations. Supplies: construction paper, markers, crayons, tissue paper, various 3D craft supplies.

Chalk It Up (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

After storytime, ask children to retell part of the story through chalk art. They could change the ending, draw themselves in the story, or to make the story scary instead of silly (or vice versa). Toddlers can simply draw the characters, an object that relates to the story in some way, or pictures of their own choosing. Be sure to photograph their chalk art!

Message for parents/caregivers:

Encourage your child to scribble and make lots of marks: this helps them exercise their fine motor skills that are needed for writing - and drawing.

Week Six Theme: Performing Arts (See pgs 213 - 219 in 2025 manual)

Objective: To celebrate creative modes of expression.

Read:

All the Faces of Me by Laura Alary

Amy Wu and the Ribbon Dance by Kat Zhang

Duck Goes Meow by Juliette Macgyver

Ear Worm! by Jo Knowles

¡Fiesta! A Festival of Colors by Duncan Tonatiuh.

One Sweet Song by Jyoti Rajan Gopal

Piano Wants to Play by Colleen Kong-Savage

Shall We Dance? by Robin Page

Tap! Tap! Tap! Dance! Dance! Dance! by Herve Tullet

This Is Tap: Savion Glover Finds His Funk by Selene Castrovilla and Laura Freeman

Activities:

Twinkle, Twinkle Yellow Star (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

To the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.” Hide flannel stars of different colors and look for a new color with each verse. For a fingerplay, show children how to blink their fists open and closed like stars. Piggyback lyrics from Kate Guynn of Helen Hall Library in League City, TX.

Twinkle, twinkle yellow star
How I wonder where you are?
Let’s go looking here and there,
Let’s go looking everywhere.
Twinkle, twinkle, yellow star,
How I wonder where you are?

Ribbon Dance

After you read Amy Wu and the Ribbon Dance, pass out silky ribbons or scarves, play some music, and encourage children to wave their ribbons and move to the music.

Make your own parade

- Play some marching band music and march to the beat
 - UW Marching Band [recordings](#)
- Provide child-sized instruments and have a parade
- Invite high school music students to play their school song
- Act out the story, ending with bedtime
- Take photos and post on your library’s social media

Paper Masks (From 2025 CSLP Manual)

Set out precut mask templates along with a variety of drawing and craft supplies. After children have decorated their masks, they can add elastic cords or craft sticks. Tape a square “stage” to the floor, and hang two curtains from the ceiling. With their masks, children can play at making their own scenarios

Message for parents & caregivers: Young children learn best when they feel safe, cozy, and loved. Read with your child on your lap and make reading time a special time between you and your little one.

An artists' pantry: some of Shawn's favorite go-to & sustainable materials

- Tempera sticks
- Chunky crayons
- Stabilo Woody colored pencils - water soluble
- Beeswax block crayons
- Wooden blocks
- Colorful square bandanas/scarves
- Homemade play dough
- Rocks
- Box of dress up clothes
- Wallpaper samples
- Construction paper and paper on rolls
- Blank kraft notebooks
- Jingle bells, drums, keyboard, etc.
- iPad or tablet with photo app
- Safety mirrors
- Pretend microphone
- Yarn & wool roving



Check out these places for supplies:

- Thrift shops
- Your child's art supplies brought home at the end of the school year
- E-bay
- Blick Art Materials: www.dickblick.com (best prices, fast shipping, regional business)
 - Royal Talens sketchbooks: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/talens-art-creations-sketchbooks/>
- Jack Richeson supplies: <https://richesonart.com/> (WI company - great for pigments & casein (milk) paint making supplies. Treat yourself!)
- Montessori and Waldorf school supply vendors
- www.bellalunatoys.com
- www.montessoriservices.com