



**SPEECH PATHOLOGY &
EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.**



ART Program

ART at SPEC?

Art is a fun way for children to learn vital skills they will need to excel academically and socially. It is also a way to stimulate a child's mind by unlocking their imagination. Through art, all children practice and develop their creativity, innovation and problem solving skills. Whether it's finger painting or building block sculptures, here are some of the benefits of art:

- **Develops fine motor skills:** Children work with crayons, scissors and brushes, all of which allow them to manipulate materials with their fingers. By doing so, they learn proper finger grasp and build dexterity, both of which are pre-handwriting skills.
- **Supports sensory integration:** It is through the five senses that children learn about the world around them. Through art, the senses are engaged, maximizing learning opportunities. For children who struggle with sensory processing disorders, art can be therapeutic.
- **Increases attending and listening skills:** Art projects help kids develop better attending and listening skills, as they must learn to focus and follow directions to complete the work.
- **Builds visual skills and academic concepts:** Children learn about letters, numbers, colors, shapes and also cause and effect. They are also taught about sequencing, an essential pre-reading skill.
- **Enhances communication skills:** Art is a universal language, and for children who struggle verbally, art provides an alternate form of communicating. Art can also be used to test what children have learned.
- **Trains creative thinkers:** Children use their imagination to create works of art, and learn to problem solve when things don't turn out the way they expected.
- **Bridges confidence and culture:** When an art project is complete, a child experiences pride, which builds self-esteem. Working together in a group also exposes children to various experiences and cultural differences, expanding on their understanding of each other. They also learn about turn taking, sharing and cooperation.

Join Us for Group Art Classes

Art classes are open to all children without regard to race, color, national, or ethnic origin. Classes are offered for children from preschool through kindergarten, and last one hour. Children participate in a variety of art projects, including coloring, finger painting and working with clay. Themes are incorporated into each class to enhance language. Story time relates back to the art project of the day. At the end of class, each student presents and discusses their art project, and recaps what was learned, further supporting the emergence of language.

Children with special needs can especially benefit from art classes, as it has a therapeutic component and can help with communication and speech; attention; cognitive skills; gross and fine motor skills; sensory integration; and social skills. Art can be taken in conjunction with individual speech-language, occupational, and applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapies.

Meet Our Art Teacher

Our art program is led by bilingual Bachelor's or Master's level teachers with varied backgrounds that range from early childhood development and speech pathology to special needs education. There are also speech-language pathologists, behavioral and occupational therapists onsite that can lend their expertise to children who may need additional support.