

Welcome to the Art Room!

This information will help you better understand the art room and help me better understand your student. Remember, there are no silly questions! Together, with my art knowledge and your knowledge of _____'s unique needs and interests, we can create an experience that is successful for them.

All About Art Class

This art room is a choice-based classroom, which means students make choices about their artwork like real artists! Your student will be able to explore a variety of types of art and can choose to work on what interests them most.

In the choice-based art room, we have 3 main goals: Independence and Ownership, Fun, and Growth.

Goal 1: Independence and Ownership

Independence in art means each student's **process** (working on art) and **product** (finished work) should be 100% their own! Please do not draw on student artwork or create artwork for students, as art class is a place to practice fine motor skills and self-reliance.

Here are 4 suggestions to help your student if they are struggling:

1. Offer Choices

You may say things like:

- "You can either paint or draw today. Which would you like to do?"
- "At the drawing center, you can use oil pastels or markers today. Which one?"
- "What would you like to draw today?" or "We can make marks or draw a dog. Which one would you like to try?"

As the year progresses, offering students more varied choices will help them grow.

Remember to encourage your student to try new materials each week!

2. Use Verbal Queues & Support

Talk your artist through the process and praise their effort, not their skill. (*Great work! Look at how hard you're working!*) Sometimes students will struggle with certain skills and tasks. This helps them to grow as an artist. The goal is not perfect artwork but independence and ownership!

If neither 1 or 2 are working, you can try:

3. Modeling

If your student can mimic you, show your student what to do on a separate piece of paper or project so they can follow along. Remember that as an adult, your skills can be intimidating, so keep your artwork child-friendly!

4. Hand-Over-Hand

Use your hand over the student's hand to guide them so that they can learn the new skill. This should only be done if the student can't begin on their own.

Goal 2: Fun!

We want all artists to leave art class loving art. Your artist may have certain interests and learning needs. I will do my best to provide art experiences and resources to peak their interests! To help me hone in on these interests and needs, please fill out the chart below. These lists can change throughout the year!

Interests	Needs
List 5 of your student's biggest interests (ex: music, trains, Pokemon, drawing, etc)	List 5 needs you foresee in the art room (ex: fine motor, ingesting items, allergies, aversions)
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)
4)	4)
5)	5)

Goal 3: Growth

Our last goal for the art room is growth. Each day in art class we have objectives that may need to be modified to meet the needs of your student. Your student also may have goals that they are working on outside of art class. Along with the information I have from their IEP and files, I would love your input on goals for your student.

Please feel free to list any goals you and your student are working on reaching in school:

(Ex: gross motor skills, fine motor skills, social interactions, working more independently, following written directions, following verbal directions, staying in/attending art class regularly, safe use of materials, etc.)

Thank you,

Art Teacher