



Art Games to Build Creative Thinking! K-3

Pro-D Sept 21, 2026
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We are going to:



Work out our imagination muscles!

Build tolerance for uncertainty.

Teach our brain that mistakes are OK, even great!

Laugh at ourselves.

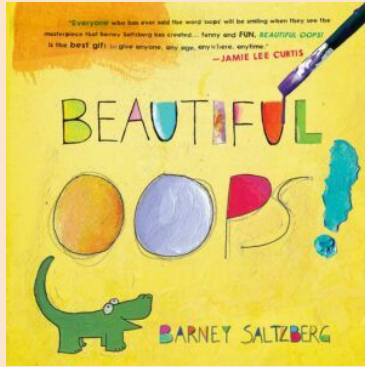
See that different brains think differently.

Arts Education K-9 – Big Ideas

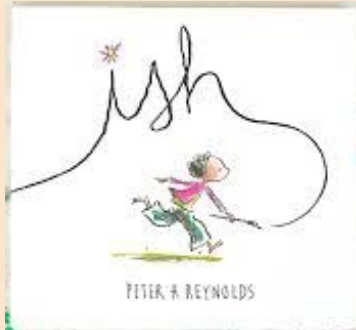
Grade				
K-1	• People create art to express who they are as individuals and community.	• Engagement in the arts creates opportunities for inquiry through purposeful play.	• Dance, drama, music, and visual arts express meaning in unique ways.	• People connect to others and share ideas through the arts.
2	• Creative expression develops our unique identity and voice.	• Inquiry through the arts creates opportunities for risk taking.	• Dance, drama, music, and visual arts are each unique languages for creating and communicating. (Grades 2-8)	• People connect to the hearts and minds of others in a variety of places and times through the arts.
3	• The mind and body work together when creating works of art.	• Creative experiences involve an interplay between exploration, inquiry, and purposeful choice.	• Dance, drama, music, and visual arts are each unique languages for creating and communicating. (Grades 2-8)	• The arts connect our experiences to the experiences of others.

Books

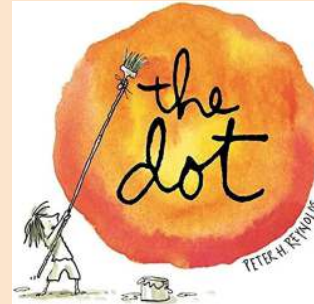
Books that encourage thinking creatively and letting go of perfectionism.



Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg is a growth mindset book focused on anti-perfectionism. This book is especially good for encouraging creativity and flexible thinking in children who tend to give up as soon as they have made a mistake. This book encourages the idea that sometimes the most beautiful results come from mistakes and accidents.



Ish by Peter H. Reynolds is a story about Ramone who is put off drawing by a rude comment from his brother. His little sister teaches him the value of creativity over perfection by thinking 'ishly.'



The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds is an inspiring children's picture book about a young girl named Vashti who overcomes her self-doubt and discovers her hidden creative potential by making her mark.

Mold the picture

- Use plasticine/clay to add elements to a scene.
- Individual or collaborative.
- 3D
- Sensory

Bloopies

- Teacher can create or students can create for each other.
- Give ample space to create.
- Use different media.
- Turn and talk
- Do you see anything different?

This is not a...

- Whole class could copy one from the board.
- Each student gets their own page.
- Do it with buddies.
- Set a timer?

Roll a masterpiece

- Lesson about an artist or style
- Use different media
- Individual or collaborative
- Some direction, some artistic choice

Simon Says Draw!

- The language of art – elements & principles of art
- Each brain will interpret it differently
- Create abstract art (KANDINSKY)
- Play with media
- Do it individually, in groups or as a whole group

Trent Drawings

- [Drawings By Trent](#)
- Ex on Instagram
- Trent's superpower is drawing!
- 2 agreements - we can laugh at ourselves, we can laugh with others. The worse it is, the better it is because we get to laugh harder!
- Choose your time - 2 minutes, 1 minute, 30 seconds.
- Choose an animal. Choose a setting. Choose an action (verb) or choose an item (noun).
- You must use permanent marker.
- Power draw "magnificent"