

The Barclay Early Childhood Center
Creative Arts
Preschool Standards and Benchmarks

For children, the critical component of the creative arts is the process rather than the end result or product. Children develop independence, self-motivation and self-expression through concrete, hands-on, individualized learning in environments that stimulate creativity through music, dramatic play, dance and the visual arts. In many instances, creative arts in the preschool classroom are inextricably linked to other curriculum areas. When integrated in a developmentally appropriate way, creative arts promote curiosity, problem-solving abilities, verbal and nonverbal expression and can be used as a strategy for learning about different cultures and content areas.

The teacher needs to be aware of the importance of providing children with the materials and time necessary to explore, experiment and create in their own way. Providing children with the freedom to create, however, does not preclude the teacher from supporting children's artistic development by using strategies such as describing, modeling, feedback and others to scaffold their learning. The teacher should be knowledgeable about the artistic traditions of different cultures and should integrate aspects of such cultures throughout the classroom environment and activities.

Summary of Standards and Benchmarks

Standard 8

The student demonstrates an understanding of the Creative Arts.

Benchmarks	
8.1	Children express themselves and develop an appreciation for music.
8.2	Children develop an appreciation for dance and movement.
8.3	Children develop an appreciation for dramatic play and storytelling.
8.4	Children develop awareness and appreciation for visual arts (e.g., painting, sculpting and drawing).

Standard 8

The student demonstrates an understanding of the Creative Arts.

Benchmark 8.1 Children express themselves and develop an appreciation for music.

Developmental Continuum	Example Behaviors
Sings alone or with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">engages in appropriate vocalizations
Uses a variety of musical instruments to create music alone and/or with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">traditional instruments,homemade instruments,his/her body
Discusses his/her reactions/feelings to diverse musical genres and or styles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In reaction to listening to a classic lullaby a child might say, "This music makes me feel quiet inside."

Benchmark 8.2 Children develop an appreciation for dance and movement.

Developmental Continuum	Example Behaviors
Explores different ways of moving his/her body with and without music.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Model different dance movements (e.g., twist, bend, leap, slide).
Attempts to move to the beat of music.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use correct terminology when referring to movements (e.g., gallop, twist, stretch).
Responds to changes in tempo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Moving slowly or hurriedly,On tiptoes to soft music,Gliding to a waltz

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The student demonstrates an understanding of the Creative Arts.

Benchmark 8.3 Children develop an appreciation for dramatic play and storytelling.

Developmental Continuum	Example Behaviors
Plays a role observed in his/her life experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mom,• Fire fighter,• Police officer,• Doctor,• Car mechanic
Makes up new roles and acts them out, especially from familiar stories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds characters to stories
Participates with others in dramatic play, negotiating roles and setting up events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works cooperative in group• Maintains role
Differentiates between pretend and real.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knows when things are “silly” and when they are not.

Benchmark 8.4 Children develop awareness and appreciation for visual arts (e.g., painting, sculpting and drawing).

Developmental Continuum	Example Behaviors
Plans and works independently to create own art representations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given topic develops art work
Recognizes and describes various art forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photographs,• Statues,• paintings
Explores and describes art choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "I used red for my screaming mouth,"• "I made lots of little circles because it is snowing so hard."