

## Educator Notes – An Introduction

### Overview

*Play School Art Time* is vibrant and action-packed series of 20 x 11 min episodes celebrating children’s creativity, curiosity and all things arty! Set in a magical art studio, the adventurous Art Crew join presenters Zindzi and Matt to create, explore and experience the wonders of art.

From watercolour paintings to robot sculptures and everything in between, we explore 40 different creative projects. We see the Art Crew’s masterpieces come to life in the *Art Time* Gallery. Each episode is designed to inspire children and families to experiment with *Art Time* projects at home.

### ***Play School Art Time* and Early Childhood Education**

The role of visual arts plays a fundamental role in early childhood teaching and learning. Each early learning setting may incorporate art a little differently throughout their program, depending on the skills and interests of educators. *Art Time* aims to spark new ideas that can be accessible and adaptable for anyone working with children.

Each *Art Time* project was developed collaboratively by series producers in consultation with early childhood teacher and an expert early education advisor on Play School, Angela McClean. Producers recognised how early childhood educators from around the world have long admired the child-led, educator ‘enabled’ approach to art making as seen in the ateliers of Reggio Emilia, Italy. *Art Time* offers Play School’s joyful perspective on an inspirational creative studio for children. A space to play with materials, explore ideas and experiment with techniques.



Educators are encouraged to take *Art Time* projects further by using provocations from each episode as springboards to a variety of follow-up experiences. *Art Time* Educator Notes are designed to spark ongoing teaching and learning ideas in visual arts, as well as across the early childhood curriculum.

#### **Educator Notes include:**

- **Handy make-and-do video links.**
- **Material suggestions for each focus project.**
- **Ideas for follow-up.**



### Curriculum links

*Art Time* projects reflect key motivations in 'Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia' (EYLF).

Broad links include:

### Principles

- Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
- Partnerships
- High expectations and equity

### Practice

- holistic approaches
- being responsive to children
- intentional teaching
- planning and implementing learning through play
- creating physical and social learning environments that have a positive impact on children's learning.

### Outcomes

- Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
- Children are confident and involved learners.
- Children are effective communicators.



As *Art Time* is a new addition to the Play School brand, series producers were keen to receive feedback from an artist and expert early childhood art teacher. This is what Christine Stevenson had to say about *Art Time*:

*"Watching with two young children, I was thrilled to witness how engaged they were. They loved it when the Art Crew became actively engaged with the materials provided. Because the episodes are short, there's a structured art program which teachers and parents could [adapt] to suit the developmental stage and interests of children".*

Christine Stevenson is an artist at One Plus 2 Artist Studios, Rozelle and former Lecturer in Visual Arts at the Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University, NSW.

We hope children enjoy engaging with *Art Time* in your early education setting. Please keep in touch with us at ABC KIDS to let us know how you have incorporated *Art Time* Projects in your program. We would love to hear from you.  
Email: [play.school@abc.net.au](mailto:play.school@abc.net.au)

### Credits

Presenters: Matthew Backer & Zindzi Okenyo  
Executive Producer: Jan Stradling  
Series Producer: Sarah Dabro  
Senior Producer/Director: Bryson Hall  
Series Early Childhood Advisor: Angela McClean  
Educator Notes: Laura Stone