“Every Child is an Artist”. 

“Every Child is an Artist”-quoted by Pablo Picasso, was an art experience based on the children’s need to use their senses – sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste (sensorimotor development) to gain information from external stimuli to understand the world around them. This experience incorporated all areas of development, adjusted to different learning needs, and was extended to the families at the ELC.
This experience started during early spring (April 2013), which remarked the children’s curiosity to learn about nature and natural changes. “Every Child is an Artist” consisted of different activities that were conducted weekly with different nature-related themes and sensory materials that integrated art. The first week, the children were introduced to the “Almond Blossom” and “Field with Flowers” by Vincent Van Gogh in observation of the numerous cherry blossom trees on campus. The experience prompted the children to express what nature meant to them.

These are collections from the actual doc of the day. Some of the pictures were taken by the children as they were highly interested in using cameras.
Wednesday. 4/24/13

Nature Paintings

We continued to incorporate famous artists that have painted landscapes or made nature-related paintings. We used the “Almond Blossom” and “Field with Flowers” by Vincent Van Gogh, to inspire children to paint about nature and animals.

We included the “almond blossom” painting to help children relate to our nature walk on Monday as Adelphi has many cherry blossom trees. The results were fantastic:

Lily Martin
I am making a butterfly.
Ryan Going:
“White flowers”
I am painting a nest.
“two nests”.

Zachary Psilakis:
“A tiger”.
“Tiger run fast” (indicating that the tiger would run fast in the field in the Van Gogh’s painting).
Zachary also used a pinecone to leave marks on his painting.

Pictures by: Tyler Fisher.
The “Every Child is an Artist”, project built on the children’s motor and sensory skills. Motor development included the use of fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination movements, the use of various drawing/painting art materials, and others. Some of the sensorimotor skills were explored through early exposures to focus eyes on near and far objects in paintings, exploration of different textures and the paint, execution of basic creative movements, and others.
Wednesday. 5/1/13

Discovering a new artist!

In order to continue our experience, we decided to incorporate butterflies since some children have been reading and talking about the butterfly life cycle. Children have been using play-dough and paint to create their own butterflies.

We introduced:

Victoria Horkan
Colorful Butterfly.

Salvador Dali
Landscape with butterflies.

The children used paint mixed with baby oil on white paper to make butterflies. We also showed them that by folding and opening the paper, we could recreate how butterfly wings move.

Caroline Murphy:
“Butterfly”
“It moves the winds” (while moving her arms).
Every child is an artist focused on social and emotional development as well. Some of the areas of development were:

A. Interaction with adults
- checking in with caregiver for help or reassurance during the activities.
- Responding to guidance and to the integration of their ideas.
- Following basic safety guidelines.

B. Interaction with peers.
- Painting side-by-side with another child.
- Observation and imitation of another child.
- Showing/sharing paintings with another child.
- Taking turns.

C. Self-concept: Abilities and preference.
- Making choices.
- Showing and indicating their preferences.

D. Self efficacy.
- Showing/talking about their completed art work.

E. Self-control.
- Naming some emotions, likes or dislikes.
- Beginning to control their behavior (e.g., while engaging with painting and the different art materials).
Every child is an artist.

We continue to explore children’s artistic expression and representation by adding paintings of Sunflowers by Van Gogh and Monet. Sunflower paintings were chosen because we planted them in our garden. Children painted sunflowers by using yellow and brown paint on felt. They were encouraged children to describe the texture of the felt.

This experience prompted children to use and expand their vocabulary and use their expressive language. Some children also identified different colors while other children were exposed to color recognition.

As children painted we discussed that some artists use the “stroke technique” as a method of painting. The children use their fine motor skills to engage in this technique.
Wednesday. 5/29/13

“Every Child Is An Artist”

The children’s descriptions of their paintings....

Ryan Going:

Sunflower!

Zachary Fabus:

It's a big, big flower.

It's yellow flower.

Jacob Sierra and Isabella Martinez:

Repeated the word “Sunflower”.

Lily Martin:

Butterfly and flower.

Duke Wygand:

It's a flower that grows big, big!
Every child is an artist provided not only an opportunity to grow and develop but also to spark the children’s creativity and expression through art. We are looking forward to helping many future artist’s grow in their understanding of the language of art.