

THE ARTS

Imagination does not become great until a person, given the courage and strength, uses it to create. If this does not occur, the imagination addresses itself only to a spirit wandering in emptiness.

— Maria Montessori

All of the academic work in the elementary class is connected with, and expressed by means of the arts: plays, as unique as the acting out the process of photosynthesis (the children write the plays based on their interests), maps of the population of the world, a quilt made

with squares of leaf shapes, a series of beautiful watercolors demonstrating the principles of geometry—there is no limit to their creativity. Just as in all areas, the teacher is in charge of teaching the use of the tools, and the students of designing and executing the work.

When we look at the curricula of the past, the Greeks and the Tibetans for example, we see that music and dance, and the arts in general, were an important part of the classical education. The arts were considered "the basics," perhaps because they had discovered that purely academic learning was boring and unhealthy. When information is processed in some active, musical or

artistic way—graphs, posters, drawings, creating maps, songs, plays, and so forth, the knowledge becomes permanent and it strengthens the creative part of the brain. Processing means *The Arts!*

When a student becomes interested in a particular topic, the adult's role is to supply what is needed, and then respect the child's ideas and expression.

Studying the creations of other cultures, experiencing their dances and music, studying the reasons why different architectural forms developed, and clothing or language, gives a child an understanding of the universality of human needs and expression.

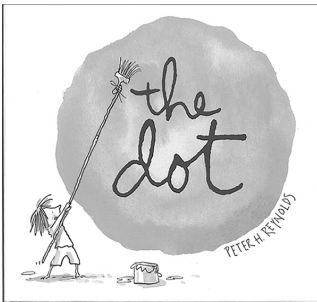
THE DOT

During my first year of teaching a Montessori elementary class, an 11-year-old who had "no musical training or interest" was inspired by a piece of music I

often practiced in class, then, with very little guidance, she learned to play Chopin's Opus 64 #2 in one year—in class! Our children are full of surprises.

In this charming little book that speaks to all of us who "have no talent in the arts," a teacher wisely encourages a student's first attempts, and initiates a flood of creativity. This cartoon formatted book is a result of the author's many years of helping children discover that, contrary to what they had begun to believe, we are indeed all artists in our own way. Hardcover, 8.3" x 8", full color, 28 pages.

EA055 \$14.00

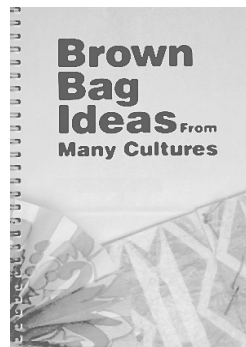


BROWN BAG IDEAS FROM MANY CULTURES

Here is an inspiring multicultural art book which teaches children, by active participation, about the varieties of art in the world while helping the earth by recycling paper bags.

Examples are included from all continents: African tribal beads, Ghanaian Adinkra cloth, Ethiopian magic scrolls, Dashikis, leather shields, bark cloth, Aboriginal bark paintings, Hawaiian tapa cloth, Javanese shadow puppets, Polish paper cuts, Mexican folk bark paintings, Kachinas, and more, 30 projects in all, with very clear directions, and a color picture of the finished project. All projects can be made from recycled paper bags. Softcover, color, 6" x 9", 137 pages.

EA06 \$20.95



MELODY HARP

We first found this exceptional musical instrument at a Montessori teacher-training center. It is an excellent introduction to the skill of reading music and one of the world's easiest and fun musical instruments to play! Simply slide a song sheet under the strings, hold down the tab to hold the music in place and follow the dots with your pick. In minutes anyone will sound like they've taken music lessons! It is handmade of hardwood in a violin factory in Romania. The 12 song sheets include the words, so the child (or adult) can sing as she creates music on the harp. Contents: harp, six 2-sided song sheets, pick, tuner, spare string. The harp is made of hardwood and is 15" wide. The *manuscript* song sheet set contains 6 double-sided blank sheets for the child's composition.

EA400 Melody Harp & 1st Song Sheets	\$39.00
EA401 Folk Songs I Song Sheets, Set/6	\$5.00
EA402 Folk Songs II Song Sheets, Set/6	\$5.00
EA403 Christmas I Song Sheets, Set/6	\$5.00
EA404 Christmas II Song Sheets, Set/6	\$5.00
EA405 Manuscript Song Sheets, Set/6	\$5.00



POTHOLDER LOOM & COTTON LOOPS

In our family we stopped making these wonderful potholders when cotton loops were replaced by those synthetic loops that shrank the potholder to 3 inches when it was taken off the loom! Now there is an improved metal loom which holds the potholder in place more securely, AND cotton loops.

Includes loom, hook, directions and enough loops for three potholders. Extra bags of loops can be ordered: *small bag* (3 potholders), *large bag* (10 potholders).

EA010 Loom & Loops	\$15.00
EA012 Small Bag of Loops	\$6.00
(* EA015 Large Bag of Loops	\$20.00

