

## Exploring Paper: Where do I start?



### Set the Table for Exploration and Creativity:

Invite students to touch, discover, and transform paper through their unique artistic expressions. Let their imaginations take flight!

Encourage your students to discover the limitless possibilities of paper by asking open-ended questions like:

- What Can Paper Do?
- What kinds of lines can you make with just your hands and one strip of paper?
- Can you make your lines stand up?
- What happens when paper and tape or glue become friends?

## Agreements About Paper

Take time to invite the children to brainstorm agreements that foster respect and care for materials:

### Sample Agreements:

#### 1. Show Care for Materials:

- Use materials with care.
- Keep materials in your hands or on the table.
- If materials fall, pick them up right away.
- Think with materials thoughtfully and intentionally.
- Place usable scrap paper in the provided container.

#### 2. Show Care for Yourself & Each Other:

- Remember to be kind and supportive, embracing a collaborative spirit.

#### 3. Be Creative:

- Take safe risks and try new ideas with the materials.

#### 4. Persist with Your Ideas:

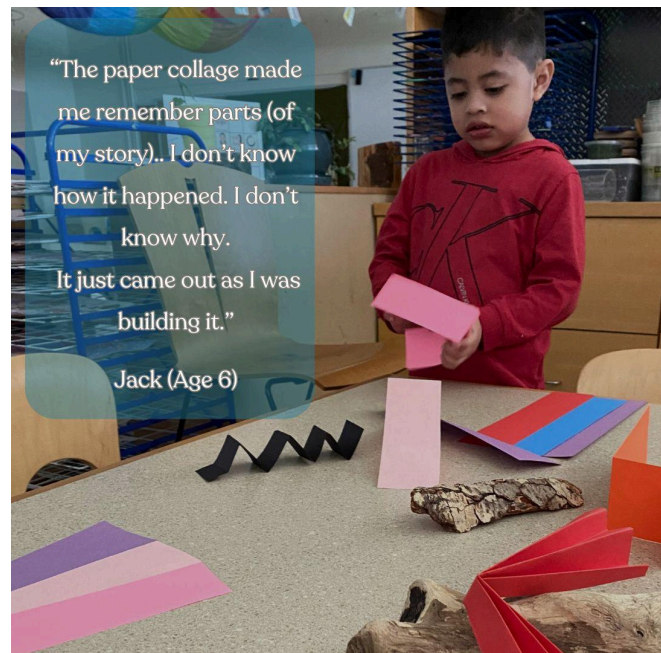
- Have stamina; work on your ideas throughout the creative process.
- If finished, explore the materials again and ask a different, connected question to inspire new thinking.

Paper Explore has the potential to offer children a doorway into "Relaxed Alertness." Relaxed alertness is fostered by high-challenge, low-threat settings where children can thrive. These are often found in a collaborative atmosphere that encourages the exploration of materials and helps children take greater risks with their learning.

## Papers to Explore with Children:

(Listed from thinnest to thickest)

- Tissue paper
- Coffee filters
- Newspaper
- Recycled magazines
- Recycled books
- Scrap copy paper
- Ruled paper rolls
- Butcher paper rolls
- Wrapping paper
- Wax paper
- Envelopes
- Construction paper scraps
- Paper bags
- Notecards
- Greeting cards
- Cardstock
- Scrapbook paper
- Wallpaper
- Paper plates and cups
- Paper straws



## Introductory Paper Explore Lesson Plan:

1. Give each child one long strip of the same kind of paper to explore. Ask the children: "What kinds of lines can you make with just your hands and one strip of paper?"

\*Added Challenge: How can paper stand up on its own? (Without helpful hands holding it)

2. Watch and listen to the children as they play with their strips of paper. Take notes on what you see and hear them say. Take photos of the diversity of lines they come up with.

3. Invite students to share the kinds of lines they invented with others.

4. Extend the learning by offering students the possibility to build on and connect their ideas at a table with a basket of paper strips and tape. Ask the children: "What happens when paper and tape or glue become friends?"

5. Watch and listen to the children as they play with their strips of paper and tape. Take notes on what you see and hear them say. Take photos of the diversity of connections they come up with.

6. Invite students to share their discoveries with one another.

Repeat steps 1-3 with a new open ended question, following the children's joy and interest.





## Picture Book Artist that use Paper Collage:

- Eric Carle
- Leo Lionni
- Lois Ehlert
- Ezra Jack Keats



## Other Book Suggestions:

Paper Play: By Lydia Crook

Every page of this book can be used to play games or make fantastic paper creations –from a paper snowflake, pretty beads, or a never-ending card, to a magic trick, a paper town, and more!

