

Art Experiences Integrated with Academic and Functional Outcomes for Learners with Significant Needs

Padmaja Sarathy
Author, Consultant and Trainer
www.infinitepossibilitiesped.com

AbleNet University Webinar
June 22nd, 2022

1

Art is...

- Motivating
- Hands-on
- Engaging
- Fun and Joyful
- Therapeutic
- Brain-Friendly

Use...

- Fine Arts
- Role Play and Drama
- Movement
- Music
- Yoga & more

Address

English Language, Arts, Math, Science, Social-Emotional and Pre-vocational Learning Objectives.

Neuroscience strongly supports art activities/experiences for brain development.

All rights reserved. Sarathy

2

Session Focus

- Design and deliver a variety of enriching art activities – visual art, music, movement, roleplay and drama – for students with complex cognitive, communication and motor disabilities.
- Gain skills in linking the adapted art activities with academic content while increasing student's engagement with people, objects in their environment and enhance their knowledge of the world around them.

Participants will learn how to use creative art experiences to enable students to:

- Increase vocabulary and literacy development
- Gain concept knowledge in Math & Science
- Improve choice-making, self-expression, and creativity.
- Increase opportunities for gaining social skills, interactions with peers and social-emotional development.

All rights reserved. Sarathy

Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

3

Participant Poll - 1
The Role You Play...

- A. Special education teacher?
- B. Administrator?
- C. Speech Pathologist?
- D. Occupational Therapist?
- E. Physical Therapist?
- F. Behavior Therapist/Counselor/Social Worker?
- G. Paraeducator?
- H. Parent?
- I. Other?

All rights reserved. Sarathy

4

Padmaja's Sarathy's Books and Publications

- Early Childhood Transition Guide
- Parenting Book
- Executive Function
- Students with Significant Disabilities
- Serving Students With Severe & Multiple Disabilities - New Edition
- Autism: Support Strategies & Interventions, Autism Seven Steps of Support: Music CD - Transitions
- Behavior Guide (Preventive and Positive Approaches) and Mindfulness Guide
- Early Childhood Transition: Parenting Guide: Executive Function - Early Years; and STEM Teaching Strategies
- Paraeducator Training Guide and DVD
- Severe and Multiple Disabilities: Significant Disabilities and ESSA
- Mindfulness Guide
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Second Edition
- Behavior Guide
- STEM Guide
- Paraeducator Training Manual & DVD

All rights reserved. Sarathy

5

Flyswatter Art.

Need a fly swatter, colored paints, newspaper or construction paper

- Dip the fly swatter in colored paints in small trays (or drip the paint on top of the fly swatter).
- Hang the paper on the wall. Have the student hit the paper with the swatter.
- Student creates a spider web on the paper with the colored swats.
- Use a spider stamp to add a spider on the web.

Link it with: The Very Busy Spider Charlotte's Web

Connect Literacy & Science.

- Learn Story Elements.
- Identify story characters and story events.
- Identify the story setting (spider web and farm), etc.
- Identify spider characteristics.
- Increase comprehension and vocabulary - match pictures created in art with story elements/text.

All rights reserved. Sarathy

Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

6

Blend Art with Story Comprehension.

- Students can attach foam/felt images to a story map.
- Increase comprehension of stories/literary text
- Build vocabulary.
- Gain story concepts.
- Make choices.
- Follow directions.

Story Map Organizer Tool

- Story title:
- Story Theme
- Setting
- Character 1
- Character 2

All rights reserved, Sarathy. Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

7

Construct a Collage.

Connect it to Literacy, Math and Social-Emotional Development.

- Increase communication (about images and connected themes).
- Make choices.
- Increase vocabulary.
- Identify pictures, match pictures to text, numbers, emotions, etc.

Create a Number Collage

Feelings Collage

Create a Vocabulary Collage

Create a Nature Collage

Identify parts of a plant
Link it to: Seed to Plant

Link it with: The Giving Tree

Connect it to stories
(On Monday When it Rained, Wizard of Oz, etc.)

All rights reserved, Sarathy. Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

8

Feather Duster Painting

Texture Collage

Pursue art in a variety of positions.

- Prop students on their stomachs on towels, pillows or a wedge to work on easels in front of them.
- Strap foam squares wet with paint to their feet or attach adaptive grips to the hand to hold tools.
- These techniques are therapeutic – strengthens muscles.

Adaptations

- Place art/writing paper on non-slip material. Use shelf liner paper or Dycem roll/mat to stabilize items in place.
- Prevent slipping: Try taping it to the table surface or on to a tray to hold it in place.
- Another option: Use clear contact paper. Tape it down) and dropping items on it. When done, turn it over (may need peer/ adult help) and place it on colored construction paper.

All rights reserved, Sarathy. Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

9

Create Patterns.

Connect Art and Math.

- Increase cognitive, communication and motor skills.
- Select 2 colors out of 4 choices.
- Identify the pattern.
- Create repeated patterns
- Create packets of greeting cards (pre-vocational) & wall murals.

Create size, shape and color patterns.
Use (sticky) foam shapes.

Material Options

- Stamps & sponges (easy-to-grip handles or attach to mitten), foam and felt shapes and numbers.
- Sponge hand painters
- Paint mittens

Make number patterns.
2, 4, 6, 8, ?
5, 10, 15, ?

All rights reserved, Sarathy. Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

10

Word Family Pattern.

Create a Word Family Collage.

Create group of words ending in “ing” and match them with pictures.

Offer a vertical ABC chart.

Highlight **K, R, S** and **W**.

Provide index card with “ing” written on it.

Have them make the following words – **King, Ring, Sing, Wing**

matching it to each of the highlighted letters.

Next, match it with corresponding pictures.

Make a collage to display on the bulletin board.

Create similar word family collages to build reading skills

All rights reserved, Sarathy. Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

11

Make Mini Vocabulary Books.

Connect Art with Writing, Literacy and Science.

- Create a science-focused picture book illustrating life cycle stages (insect).
- Match text to pictures.
- Identify various stages (insect).
- Identify physical characteristics.
- Make the picture book.

Butterfly picture story – life cycle

Egg	Caterpillar	Chrysalis	Butterfly
Can you locate the Egg?	Spot the Caterpillar.	This is the Chrysalis stage.	What kind of Butterfly is this?

All rights reserved, Sarathy

12

1	8	7	9
Book Feelings My	By	Sad	to stop the game. When I have
Scared	I get when someone gets mad at me.	Happy	I get I feel when my teacher says I am working hard.
2	3	4	5

All rights reserved. Sarathy

13

Make Puppets and Connect STEM Vocabulary and Concepts.

All rights reserved. Sarathy

14

Participant Poll - 2

What art-focused activities do you routinely use integrating them with academic concepts?

- Role-play and Drama?
- Making puppets connected to story content?
- Movement or Yoga activities?
- Art collage connected to an academic/social-emotional theme?
- Painting/craft activities?

All rights reserved. Sarathy

15

Pursue Movement.

(For Preschool/Early Elementary)
Connect it with Language, STEM & Gross and Fine-Motor.

- Learn to follow directions.
- Teach directional and positional vocabulary (engaging in scarf play).
- Teach body parts ("Wave the scarf above your head, below the knee, etc.")
- Foster peer interaction and social togetherness
- Increase self-awareness and self-expression.
- Respond to musical directions using a variety of options (words, signs, picture cards, body movement, orientation and vocalizations).
- Start/stop activity with cues.

Music In Motion and Movement

- Can use scarves, streamers, rainbow hoops, Octaband to shake, wave, make patterns.
- Play "Freeze" game to sharpen attention, listening and executive function skills.
- Perform Yoga postures linking to nature-based theme (e.g., bird, fish, flower, tree, etc. Connect it with concepts and stories.

All rights reserved. Sarathy

16

Shake and Jingle with Instruments.

Connect it with Vocabulary & Math.

- Increase peer interactions and social togetherness.
- Strengthen self-regulation, cognitive flexibility
- Promote personal enjoyment and self-expression.

Students make a simple instrument:

- Drop beans into two paper cups.
- Decorate the cup with tissue paper and colorful stickers.
- Shake, Stop and Start on cue.
- Shake a specific number of times.

Adaptations

- Adapt musical shakers and rhythm bells with Velcro attached to them with corresponding Velcro on a glove that your students can wear.
- Music in Motion: Adapt response and participation modes for students with physical challenges: student can clap hands, swing arm, raise a hand/arm, tap on tray/table, or blink eyes.

All rights reserved. Sarathy

17

Perform Role-Play & Drama.

- Connect it with science and literacy concepts and social skills.
- Participate in role-play aided with pre-recorded dialogue in an SGD device.
- Identify characters – connect dialogue with the character in drama.
- Interact & engage with peers.
- Identify emotions.

Science in Motion - Orbit Drama

Integrated with Science: Students make props (Sun, Moon, Earth) out of paper plates and paint them.

Students play diverse roles, perform actions to demonstrate the concept of Orbit.

Earth orbiting (circling) around the Sun; Moon orbiting (circling) around the Earth and the relationship between Sun, Earth and Moon.

Wizard of Oz

Have students create story props:

- Face mask for cowardly lion
- Paint a tin can for Tin Man
- Feathers for Scarecrow
- Hat and claws for Wicked Witch

Role-play story characters.

All rights reserved. Sarathy

18

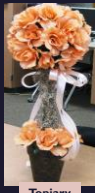
Prevocational and Adult Transition Focus

Students make Topiary and Greeting Cards for sale. Organize a special (Holiday/Spring/Summer) sale.

Link it to Reading/Language Math and Social Skills,


- ✓ Advance counting skills
- ✓ Teach money skills.
- ✓ Promote self-expression.
- ✓ Increase motor skills.
- ✓ Teach positional vocabulary.
- ✓ Facilitate Social-connection and Togetherness.
- ✓ Teach use of money in real-life situations

- Make (color) choices.
- Follow 2-step directions.
- Perform specific action.
- Repeat a pattern modeled by adult.
- Match items with their cost.
- Identify dollar/quarter.
- Comment about artwork aided with AT
- Greet peers/adults.



Topiary

Have a simulated auction game. Students bid their artistic creations.



Greeting Card

All rights reserved. Sarathy Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

19

Have students make adapted calendar, props, puppets, etc. Connect it with literacy, math, science and social-emotional concepts.


Adapted Calendar



Books paired with objects




Story Prop- The Giving Tree



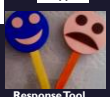
Feelings Puppet



Make a Feeling Faces Book.



Response Tool




All rights reserved. Sarathy Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

20

Let's Overcome Barriers and Change Perceptions.

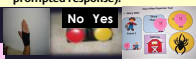
- Lack of exposure and limited practice pose barriers to learners.
- Need understanding of how to accommodate for learner characteristics - cognitive, communication and motor needs - with adapted techniques, tools and technology.
- Apply the **Universal Design for Learning** principles - multiple means of representation, engagement and action and expression - to match learner needs and task complexity.

Art Experiences with an Integrated Approach



- Provide opportunities for the student to perform as much of the task as independently as possible.
- Use partial participation if needed. Have high expectations.
- Reduce adult hand-over-hand prompting (clear understanding of what constitutes an intrusive and prompted response).

Adapted Techniques




Enable, Engage and Energize Learners Using Art!

All rights reserved. Sarathy Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications


21

Assistive Technology Aids


Italk2 Communicator
Enable Choice-making.




Quick Talker




Talking Brix Communicator
Pair vocabulary words with Talking Brix.



Super Talker
To promote group participation and response



Italk2 Communicator
No Yes
Make choices and respond to questions



Photos from AbleNet (www.ablenetinc.com/Assistive-Technology)

22

Participant Poll - 3

Identify strategies you routinely use with students with significant and complex learning needs to facilitate active engagement in activities and develop self-dependence?

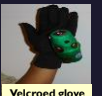
- A. Partial participation as an option to increase learner involvement?
- B. Provide hand-over-hand total physical prompting to perform every task?
- C. Provide student-specific visual, verbal, and tactile supports to enable the learner to access, engage and respond?
- D. Ensure a paraeducator is always sitting next to or behind the student?
- E. Enable student to read and respond to social cues and communication?

All rights reserved. Sarathy 23

23

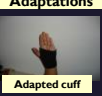
Personalize adaptations to match student-specific needs.

Adaptations




Velcroed glove


Adapted cuff




Adapted paint roller
attached to PVC pipes manipulated with both hands




Adapted brushes
built up with modeling clay to provide better grip



Adapted cuff



Adapted Stamp
with a craft stick fastened with Velcro

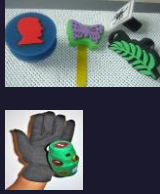


All rights reserved. Sarathy Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

24

Adaptations

- Use Velcro glove to attach sponges, stamps, and small items to dip into paint to create art.
- Give students a wide brush (used to paint edges) for painting or to spread the glue.
- Use a ponytail holder as an adaptation. Place/pull it over the student's hand. Insert items between the holder and the palm grasp.
- Use foam insulation pieces from the hardware store to build up paint brushes, crayons, pens, pencils, glue stick, and other art items.
- Put colored sand in a zip-close bag, snip it in a corner, and let the student pour it on paper.



All rights reserved. Sarathy Adapted from Severe Disabilities book, LRP publications

25

Integrate Art Activities to Teach Literacy, Math, Science, Fine and Gross-Motor and Social-Emotional Concepts.

- Engaging in and Performing Art Activities Makes Learning Joyful. Captures and Sustains Attention.**
- Use Diverse Activities to Increase and Sustain motivation, Cultivate Focus and Attention and Strengthen Memory.**
- Personalize Adaptations to Match Student-specific Needs.**
- Present diverse engagement and response tools.**
- Deliver systematic instruction with system of least prompts.**
- Students with Complex Communication, Cognitive and Motor Needs Can and Do Learn.**



All rights reserved. Padmaja Sarathy

26

The Main Sources



An Updated Edition, 2021
LRP Publications
https://www.shoplrp.com/prduct_p/300201_2ed.htm



Second Edition, 2021
LRP Publications
https://www.shoplrp.com/prduct_p/300215_2ed.htm



Second Edition, 2021
LRP Publications
https://www.shoplrp.com/prduct_p/300215_2ed.htm

27


Helpful Resources

- Sarathy, P. (Updated Second Edition, 2021). *Serving students with severe and multiple disabilities: A guide to strategies for successful learning.* Horsham, PA: LRP Publications.
- Sarathy, P. (2021). *Positive Behavior Intervention for Students with Autism: A Practical Guide to Avoiding the Legal Risks of Seclusion and Restraint.* Horsham, PA: LRP Publications.
- Sarathy, P. (2017). *Students With Significant Disabilities: At the Crossroads of IDEA and ESSA.* Horsham, PA: LRP Publications.
- Sarathy, P. (2015). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Seven Steps of Support,* A quick reference guide, Publisher: National Professional Resources, Inc. (www.nprinc.com)
- Sarathy, P. (2012). *Paraeducator Power Training,* ED311, Austin Texas, Website: Sarathy, P. (2019). *P.R.E.V.E.N.T. Problem Behaviors: Seven Contemplative Discipline Steps.* ED311, Austin Texas, Website: <http://www.ed311.com/>.

Websites:

- **UDL website:** (Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) <http://www.cast.org/research/udl/index.html>)
- **CEEDER Center:** <https://ceeder.education.ufl.edu/>

28



Thank you.

A special thanks to AbleNet University for hosting the webinar.

Padmaja Sarathy Author, Consultant and Trainer

psarathy@earthlink.net
www.infinitepossibilities-sped.com

Future Webinar: **October 19th, 2022 - 11:00 AM:**
Bolstering Family Involvement with Tools and Techniques to Advance Learners with Significant Disabilities

All rights reserved. Sarathy

29