

Mosaic and Music

Summary Description: Create a mosaic by moving around a blanket (background) and placing materials onto the blanket when the music stops.

Level: Preschool

Cost: None

Mess factor: None

Suggested location: Open space — living room or outside

Children will experience:

- Moving to music
- Creative art
- New vocabulary words

Materials:

- Instrumental music
- A colorful material, i.e., Magna tiles, various colors of construction paper, fabric pieces.
- Small size blanket (for the background), i.e., receiving blanket, hand towel, pillowcase
- Examples of mosaic art reproductions from the DIA (For links to mosaics from the DIA, please see page 3)

Definition: A MOSAIC is a picture made from many small pieces of various materials.

Vocabulary words/topics to focus on while conversing with your child:

mosaic, pattern, assemble, color, size, shape, and texture.

Beginning: Briefly talk with your child about the DIA field trip and show your child pictures of mosaic art reproductions. Tell your child that today we will play a game that involves making a mosaic. Lay the blanket down in the middle of the space and explain to your child that the blanket will be the background for the mosaic. Then show your child the materials (magna tiles, construction paper, fabric) and say, "This is the material we are going to use to make our mosaic." Have your child choose two materials pieces. Next tell your child that you are going to play some music and that everyone can move around the blanket in different ways while the music is playing but, when the music stops, everyone will stop and place their material(s) on the blanket. Start the music and, after several seconds, hit the pause button. Model and remind your child to place the material(s) on the blanket.

Middle: Repeat several times (or until the song is over), choosing two more materials each time before starting the music again. Once you and your child have placed materials on the blanket, encourage your child to look at the mosaic and describe what he or she sees. If your child does not point out patterns in colors or shapes, show your child what you see. If your child does not lay down the pieces so that they are connected, show your child how to lay down the pieces so that they touch each other. Let your child choose a way to move everyone's bodies (skip, walk, hop) around the blanket while the music plays and join in. Repeat the game according to your child's interests.

End: Tell your child that you will play and stop the music one more time, so that your child can add one more piece to the mosaic. Then put away the materials together.

Younger children:

- Toddlers may have a harder time stopping right when the music stops or holding their body still, but they will still enjoy dancing!
- Once the music stops, they may hold on to the materials instead of placing them on the blanket. To support them you can say, "I noticed

the music stopped. Put your materials on the blanket.” but without the expectation of children following this or pressuring them to do so.

Older children:

- Older children will enjoy trying new movements as they walk around the blanket.
- This activity could be done outside to let the older children gallop, skip, and jump around.
- You could have children compare and describe similarities and differences between the mosaic they made and the examples of mosaic art reproductions from the DIA.

More!

- Place the blanket outside and encourage children to make a mosaic on the blanket using materials they collect outside.

Links to mosaics from the Detroit Institute of Arts:

Viewing this as a printed resource? You can find the art pieces listed below by visiting <https://dia.org/collection> and searching for each art piece by name.

- [Quilting Time, 1986](#)
- [Mushhushshu-dragon, Symbol of the God Marduk, 604 - 562 BCE](#)
- [Roundel of Mosaic Tile, 15th - 16th century](#)
- [Mosaic Tile Wall Revetment, 15th century](#)
- [Fish, 4th century](#)