

Registration Process!

If you are interested in having your child involved in the Youth Arts Initiative, please complete an application so that we can contact you. Applications are available at the Cooper Center or can be downloaded from our website.

Once your application has been received we will contact you to set up a tour of the Cooper Center for you and your child.



Cost!

The Cooper Center for Creative Arts recognizes the specialized costs of raising a child with an intellectual disability. We understand that the cost of extra-curricular arts activities will not easily fall into a family's budget or will not be affordable at all. With this in mind, the Cooper Center is pursuing funding options for the program so that the opportunities can remain at no cost for families in Albany County.



Coming to The Cooper Center for Creative Arts

2012 Summer Arts Festival!



Contact Us!

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Youth Arts Initiative

at The Cooper Center
for Creative Arts

Progressive arts
opportunities for school
aged children with
intellectual disabilities.

www.arkcreativearts.org

About Us!

The mission of the Youth Arts Initiative at the Cooper Center for Creative Arts is to provide an arts experience for school aged children with intellectual disabilities in an engaging and fun environment.

The Cooper Center for Creative Arts embraces and upholds the philosophies of Ark Regional Services. As part of the philosophy we live every day, we always stay focused on the person and ensure dignity, respect, and choice.

The Cooper Center is staffed by professional, well trained, qualified, and caring instructors. Even above qualifications is the desire to develop relationships with children with intellectual disabilities in Albany County and guide them artistically into adulthood.

Adapting a typical visual and performing arts curriculum so that students with non-typical learning styles could be successful was the goal of the creative arts program from its inception. Our curriculum has been adapted for children with intellectual disabilities utilizing current state and federal standards in arts education. Our educational foundation continues on a progressive track to educate young people with non-typical learning styles without regard to ability and perceived limitations.

Benefits!

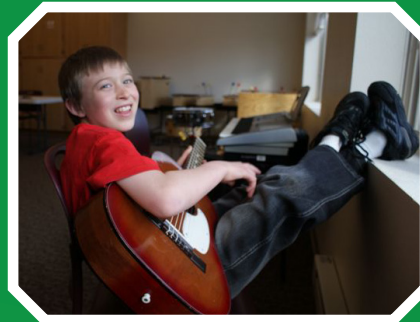


There is abundant evidence that experiences in dance, theatre, music, and art help typical children develop intellectual, social, and physical skills necessary to participate to the fullest extent possible in

today's society. Evidence also supports the notion that children who participate actively in the arts are able to translate those skills into opportunities as adults in the job market. The skills acquired are proven to be even more applicable to children with intellectual disabilities.

The Youth Arts Initiative can:

- Increase self esteem
- Foster thinking skills
- Improve cognitive functioning
- Improve gross and fine motor skills
- Improve strength, balance, and stamina
- Enhance communication strategies
- Teach the value of teamwork and cooperation



Classes!

Classes are offered for varied age groups in different disciplines. Classes in dance and theatre allow children to have a fun experience while increasing body awareness, control, balance, and coordination. Visual arts classes allow students to explore their creativity through painting, drawing, and sculpture. Music classes teach children rhythm and dynamics in a delightful environment of self-expression.



All classes run concurrently with the school calendar. Please contact us for current schedule and availability information.

Fall!

Open enrollment for fall classes begins August 29, 2011 and classes begin on September 19, 2011.

Spring!

Open enrollment for spring classes begins January 2, 2012 and classes begin on January 23, 2012.

