



★
moms on a mission
 AMAZING WOMEN DOING GOOD BEYOND MOTHERHOOD
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Bringing Art to Everyone!

Worried that local kids were missing out on the chance to **EXPLORE THEIR CREATIVITY**, a group of five moms launched a family art center that's changing lives BY GINNY GRAVES

See how this collage looks like a cityscape?" asks artist Kate Ortolano, holding up a piece of black cardboard covered with strips of paper that looks remarkably like a night skyline. Eight squirmy elementary-school kids nod in unison. "By layering the paper and using different colors and textures, you can create a feeling of depth. So without a lot of thinking, I'd like you to just get started and see what happens."

As the sound of ripping paper fills the air, a 9-year-old boy holds up a long gray strip and says, "That's a Jack-in-the-Beanstalk skyscraper right there, but it's bigger than my cardboard. Can I do that?" A girl to his left, who's already gluing tree bark to her project,



MEET THE MOMS!
 Kate Ortolano (left) and Thena Trygstad created Artescape in Sonoma, CA, with their friends and fellow artists Gayle Manfre, Penny MacNaughton, and Janis Kobe.

quickly responds, "You can do anything you want to do, because it's yours and it's art." That's exactly what Ortolano loves to hear.

Put a few simple supplies in kids' hands, and magic happens, she says. "That's what kids are missing when art is cut from the curriculum—not just the valuable opportunity to make cool stuff but the no-holds-barred creativity that comes with it—the feeling that it's okay to take risks," she says. "That's incredibly beneficial for kids' growth, and it's getting lost in our culture." Which is why she and four friends banded together a year ago to start Artescape, a low- or no-cost visual-arts center for mostly low-income kids in Sonoma, CA.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS: @SHAE ROCCO



ART CAMP!

Artescape campers are hard at work on their accordion books. Want to make one with your kid? The instructions for that book and more are on the next page!

Mention Sonoma and the first thing that comes to mind is postcard-perfect vineyards. But there's another side of the town that most cabernet-sipping visitors don't see. "The schools on the west side are 50 to 80 percent Latino, and many families can't afford extra after-school activities, let alone art classes," says Ortolano. "Most of us live in the area, and we've worked in the schools, and it concerned us that these children may never have the chance to explore their creativity."

So a few years ago, the founders came up with the idea of starting a center where kids can come for free and do high-quality art projects. "After two years of dreaming and one year of intensive planning," according to Thena Trygstad, a sculptor and one of the founders, Artescape opened its doors in a small, light-filled space near two local schools in May 2012.

Since then the center has held more than 75 classes and workshops, giving close to 500 kids, many who return day after day, free rein to dive headlong into a range of imaginative projects—everything from origami, bookmaking, and zines to jewelry, textiles, mosaics, and urban lettering. To broaden their offerings, the center brings in local artists to teach classes, too.

Coming mostly from private donations and small grants, Artescape's finances are as fragile as the origami birds their students create. But what the founders lack in

fiscal security, they make up for with passion. "We charge a nominal fee for our camps, but if a child wants to come and can't afford it, we'll find a way," says Ortolano.

That commitment to welcoming all kids is paying off in big ways. They had one student who was struggling both academically and socially, Trygstad says. "He started coming here after school and discovered a real talent for drawing—and all of a sudden he gained new status among his classmates," she says. "He had an identity he could be proud of, and it really changed his life." Mia Cabrera says the classes built her shy 9-year-old son's confidence, too. He became so passionate about origami that he eventually taught a class to his peers.

Not only do the classes help kids tap into new-found strengths, they teach another invaluable lesson, says Nick Anast, whose 7-year-old son attends regular workshops. "The women who started Artescape are consummate artists, but they don't tell the kids what to do," says Anast. "Instead, they focus on the process rather than the outcome."

That kind of feedback makes painter and co-founder Gayle Manfre glow, because it gets at the heart of their philosophy. "Art is all about exploration. You can't do it wrong," she says. Exactly, adds Ortolano: "Every mistake is an opportunity. And that's an important thing for kids to learn, because it's not only true in art, it's true in life."

Let's Do a

BOOK!

Your kids can **WRITE THEIR OWN STORY** AND **CREATE THE BOOK** to put it in. Check out these easy projects from **Artescape** in Sonoma, CA.



Twist-Tie Baggie Book

What You Need

- 1 piece mounting-weight paper (for the front cover)
- 1 piece heavyweight paper (for the back cover)
- 3 (or more) zip-top plastic bags
- 3 (or more) sheets internal-weight paper
- 3 twist ties
- Hole punch

1. Cut your mounting- and heavyweight paper to a size that's a little larger than your plastic bags (about 7" x 7"). Cut remaining paper to fit inside the plastic bags and then zip them up.

2. Punch three holes along the edge of your heavyweight paper. Use it as a guide to punch matching holes in each plastic bag and the front cover.

3. Stack your pages together and use the twist ties to bind them.

4. Fill it up! Baggie books are great for storing things you find in nature or protecting notes and keepsakes.



You can find all the materials you need at your local crafts store. Just hit the scrapbooking section.



**BRIGHT
IDEA!**

Use old board books to make covers for your new ones. In fact, you can recycle all kinds of paper for these projects!

Kate Ortolano CO-FOUNDER OF ARTESCAPE IN SONOMA, CA

These side effects may go away with rest. **Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.**

These are not all the possible side effects of the EpiPen or EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

How should I store the EpiPen and EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector?

- **Do not** expose to extreme cold or heat. For example, do **not** store in your vehicle's glove box and do **not** store in the refrigerator or freezer.
- The solution should be clear. If the solution is discolored (pinkish or brown color) or contains solid particles, replace the unit.
- Always keep your EpiPen or EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector in the carrier tube to protect it from damage; however, the carrier tube is not waterproof.
- Your EpiPen or EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector has an expiration date. Replace it before the expiration date.

General information about the safe and effective use of the EpiPen and EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector:

Do not use the EpiPen or EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give your EpiPen or EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector to other people.

Important Information

- **Your auto-injector is designed to work through clothing.**
- **The blue safety release on the EpiPen and EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector helps to prevent accidental injection of the device. Keep the blue safety release on until you need to use it.**
- **Only inject into outer thigh. Never inject into any other part of the body.**
- **Never put your thumb, fingers, or your hand over the orange tip. The needle comes out of the orange tip.**
- **If an accidental injection happens, get medical help right away.**

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Simple Pamphlet

What You Need

- 2 to 3 pages of internal-weight paper
- 1 sheet of slightly larger mounting- or heavyweight paper
- Hole punch
- Needle and thread (leave thread attached to spool)

1. Stack all the pages together with your cover paper on the bottom facedown.

2. Fold the stack in half width-wise.

3. Open the stack again and punch three holes along the fold, leaving 1/2" to 3/4" inch at the top and bottom edges.

4. Starting from the outside of the book, insert your needle and thread in the middle hole. Push the needle back up through the bottom hole. Bring it up around the outside and down through the top hole. Bring it back up through the middle hole to the outside. Snip the thread and tie the ends in a knot.

Back-to-Back Accordion Book

What You Need

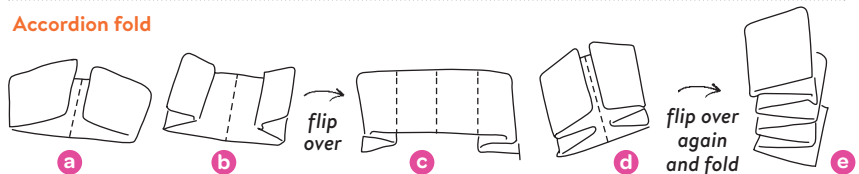
- 2 strips of mounting-weight paper, 4" x 18"
- Hole punch
- Needle and thread
- Two hard covers (see instructions below)



TIP!
Accordion books are great for stories about opposites!

1. Fold each strip in half width-wise (do one at a time). Open back up.
2. Accordion-fold your strips into 8 sections (see illustrations below).
3. Flatten and stack your strips. Punch three holes in every other crease.
4. Sew each crease as in the pamphlet book above.
5. Stand your accordion up. Glue the covers to each end.

Accordion fold



Hardcovers

What You Need

- 2 pieces of mounting-weight paper, 1" larger than book board
- 2 pieces of book board
- Pencil
- Brush and glue

1. Lay the mounting-weight paper facedown. Center the board on top and trace it with a pencil.

2. Mark off the corners of the paper, slightly above the corners of the board. Cut off the corners of the paper.

3. Remove the board. Brush glue on the paper.

4. Place board back on the paper, matching it to your lines. Turn it over

and smooth. Flip again to wrap the edges. Repeat with the other cover.



Watch how to make these crafts step-by-step at Scholastic.com/PCvideo.