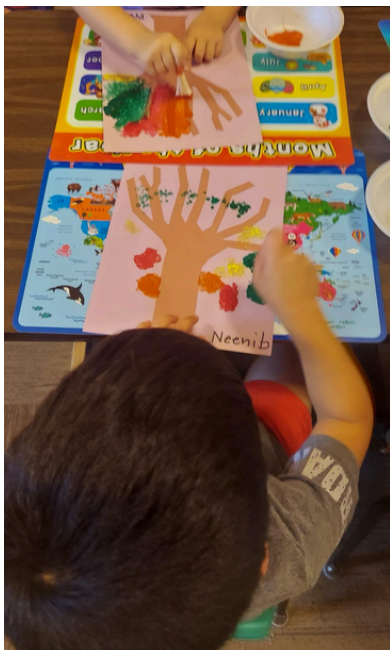


EXPRESSING CREATIVITY

Painting with Q-tips

Creativity is in full swing in our Pre-K classrooms as the children gather around tables to paint fall trees with Q-tips. Small bowls hold blobs of red, orange, yellow, and green paint, each color capturing the rich, vibrant tones of autumn. The teachers gently guide them, explaining, "Today, we're painting fall trees! Just like God created the seasons, we can create our very own fall trees. Let's use these little Q-tips to make leaves!"



Excited whispers fill the room as each child picks up a bundled group of Q-tips, a tool perfectly sized for their small hands. Dipping it into the paint, they create tiny dots and dabs on paper, watching with wonder as each little mark forms part of a beautiful tree. Through this simple yet engaging activity, the children are practicing fine motor skills. Holding the Q-tips encourages them to develop their pincer grasp and control over small movements, preparing their fingers and hands for tasks like drawing and writing.

The teacher has the opportunity to talk about patience and gentleness. "Just like how God takes His time making every season special, we're taking our time to make our trees beautiful." As they concentrate, the children are learning the value of focus and attention to detail, realizing that each careful dot contributes to the final masterpiece. One little artist, eager to cover her tree in a rainbow of colors, carefully paints each tree limb before moving on to the next limb, while other creatives randomly place paint splatters all over their trees. "Art allows each child the opportunity to develop free expression, individuality and autonomy," adds Mrs. Trish, "without being told how a certain project should look which stifles creativity and imagination."



Christian values of appreciation and wonder for creation are woven into this experience. God made each tree and each leaf unique which reminds the children that just like the trees, God made each of them special, too! The children pause, proudly admiring their work and understanding that they, too, are God's handiwork. It's a gentle reminder of the beauty in diversity and the joy of creating something meaningful.



As they work, they discover cause and effect—that pressing the Q-tips lightly makes a small dot, while pressing harder makes a bigger, bolder mark. They also notice that mixing the red and yellow paint creates a vibrant orange. Celebrating this discovery reinforces the beauty of exploration and curiosity in learning.

Some children, inspired by each other, begin sharing ideas and praising each other's work. This interaction fosters social skills and the Christian value of encouragement. By admiring one another's work, they're learning to appreciate differences and celebrate each other's creativity—a beautiful reflection of God's love and the idea of supporting one another in community.

As they finish their paintings, each child proudly displays their work, showing off their colorful fall trees reminding them to thank God for the beauty of fall and for giving us hands to create. The children, encouraged to look at the world around them with gratitude, are reminded that they, too, are artists in God's creation.

Bringing It All Together

In painting fall trees with Q-tips, our preschoolers are learning more than just art; they're developing fine motor skills, exploring creativity, practicing patience, and experiencing the joy of creation. They're reminded that just as each leaf has its place in the grand design, they, too, are part of something special—God's masterpiece. With painted hands and colorful hearts, they leave the table, carrying with them both their artwork and a little piece of God's love.