

ABSTRACT**An Investigation into the Art Activities
of Second year Infant Students in Primary Schools
of Trinidad and Tobago****Shastri Maharaj**

All infant students need to be exposed to art education within their academic development. It is preferable that exposure to the Arts be initiated at an early age.

The child's concept of things and the way he perceives life at an early age may determine the eventual outcome of his personality in his adult life.

It therefore is essential that the child experience activities which can encourage his undivided, creative attention. Such activities can provide unlimited satisfaction, experimentation and an avenue for self-expression.

This research project examines the art activities of Second Year Infant students to determine whether they are the beneficiaries of an art programme within classroom curriculum. In particular the primary school art and craft syllabus, Level One was used as the main frame of reference in identifying the art activities and art

materials that are recommended for students at this level. It was important to identify the reasons why teacher's selection of art activities varied from school to school. A comprehensive profile on the psychological level and artistic ability and potential of the infant child were examined and the findings presented.

The findings revealed that art activities that demanded minimum preparation, organisation and art materials were found to be the most chosen type of art activity by most teachers. This activity was drawing.

Painting on the other hand was identified in this research report as the art activity that was done by the least amount of classes. The review of the literature strongly recommends that painting be an integral part of the Second Year Infant student art programme. Space, overcrowded classrooms and the unavailability of art materials also contributed significantly in determining the selection of art activities.