

What is Buddy Art?

Buddy Art is a program designed to provide art activities for children with special needs and/or disabilities. The program is free and is sponsored by the **Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center** in cooperation with W&M Campus Buddies (student volunteers from the College of William & Mary), and the James City County Parks & Recreation department.



A variety of art activities are offered based on the ages, ability levels, and interests of the participating children. Each child is assigned a volunteer "Buddy" to work with them one-on-one, helping them to explore the materials, and replenishing their supplies as needed. Participants may stay in one area or explore multiple activities during the one-hour class period.



There are generally five art stations including activities such as Finger-painting, Clay (air-drying clay), Collage (cutting or tearing & pasting colored/textured papers and other objects), Drawing (crayons; markers; pastels; colored pencils; drawing pencils), Stamping (with stamps relating to the theme), Easel Painting (tempera), Carpentry, and a Puppet Theatre. Special projects might include body-tracings for self-portraits or printmaking projects such as leaf-printing. When weather permits, we have bubbles & sidewalk chalk on the patio.

Parents are invited to participate with their child or to simply observe. Buddies are assigned to each child regardless of the parent's participation so that the parent can share the activity without having to be responsible for managing the art materials and set-up.

The Buddy Art program is offered each Fall & Spring. Five classes are scheduled during William & Mary' Fall & Spring academic terms with student volunteers serving as "Buddies" to the kids.

Classes meet from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Rooms A&B at the JCC Rec Center, 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg.

The Fall 2025 session dates are Saturdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27 & October 4.

The Spring 2026 session dates are Saturdays, January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

Read more about Buddy Art at <https://visitwcac.org/programs/community-activities/buddy-art/>

To register for Buddy Art, contact Karen Schwartz, Buddy Art Coordinator, at 757-879-4328 or by email at buddy.art.kids@gmail.com.

Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center
110 Westover Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185
visitWCAC.org / 757-229-4949

Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center is an educational, non-profit organization incorporated under Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. All support is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.