

# Beyond Pom Poms: Process Art & Culture

*For Early Childhood Educators*

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## 1 Key Ideas

- Art connects children to **culture, identity, and belonging**
- **Process Art** = child-led, open-ended, curiosity-driven
- **Product Art** = structured, outcome-focused
- Both can have value when used intentionally

Notes:

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## 2 Process vs Product

Process Art	Product Art
Experience-focused	Outcome-focused
Creative & open-ended	Structured & guided
Encourages exploration	Builds skills & sequence
Unpredictable	Predictable

Notes:

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## 3 Bringing Culture into Art

- Use **authentic materials** (fabric, clay, spices, natural items)
- Invite **family stories and participation**

- Talk about **meaning, symbols, and traditions**
- Celebrate **process over perfection**

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## Music, Movement & Storytelling

- Paint or draw to **different rhythms and music**
- Encourage **storytelling through art**
- Use movement and instruments to **inspire creativity**

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## Creating Inclusive Spaces

- Display all children's work respectfully
- Offer materials that reflect **diverse cultures and abilities**
- Encourage **family contributions**

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## Reflection Questions

1. What cultural material or story could you introduce next week?

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2. How can you offer more **process-based choices** in your art area?

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3. How can **music or storytelling** support your next art invitation?

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**Quote to Remember:**

“Beyond pom poms, we create art that tells children they belong