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### **Children's Home Displays Early Childhood Art**

**Enterprise, FL** – In As Much, the Montessori-based early childhood education program at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, hosted its annual art show on January 25. The children demonstrated their artistic skill through a wide range of media, making a very impressive display. Parents and other guests were in attendance as the children proudly showed off their work.

Media used included some of the very traditional ones, such as water color, acrylic, and sculpting. But it also included sponge art, sewing, sand art, and other forms. The art work presented was an extension of their studies, and coincided with what the children learned at In As Much.

One example would be rangoli art. As part of their studies of other cultures, they learned that this art form, originally from the Indian subcontinent, consists of patterns that are created on the floor of living rooms and courtyards using a range of materials such as colored rice, dry flour, colored sand or flower petals. The works are usually created in conjunction with festivals related to Hinduism. Designs are passed from one generation to the next, keeping both the art form and tradition alive.

The children also learn about major artists and the impact they have had on us. One of those major artists was Jackson Pollack. He was an American painter and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement in the 1950s. He was well known for his unique style of drip painting. As part of the art show, the children showed off a drip painting that several of them created as a group, also learning to work together.

In As Much offers a variety for programs specifically for infants, toddlers, preschool and VPK (ages six weeks to five years). In addition, summer camp is offered for children six to twelve years of age. The camp focuses on academic skills as well as fun so the children retain knowledge over the summer break and are more prepared to begin the next school year. Swimming classes are also offered as part of the summer program, teaching children ages three and above.

The In As Much program currently serves about 170 children, but will nearly double this number in the fall as they move into the new Louise Lamar Curry Early Childhood Education Development Center that is currently under construction on the Enterprise campus of the Children's Home.

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For more information about the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, please contact Mark Cobia, Manager of Marketing and Communications at 386.668.4774 or [mark.cobia@fumch.org](mailto:mark.cobia@fumch.org).

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was established in 1908 in Enterprise, Florida on the banks of Lake Monroe. The Children's Home provides services to families and children from childhood to adulthood. Our Residential Care Program provides school-aged children who have been victimized by abuse, abandonment, or neglect with a family-style home environment cared for by loving houseparents, and includes education, counseling, recreation, and ministry opportunities. The Children's Home also provides Foster Care, an Emergency Shelter, an Independent Living Program and early childhood education to the community, and is supported primarily through the generosity of churches with the United Methodist Florida Conference, individuals, and legacy gifts. For more information, visit [www.fumch.org](http://www.fumch.org).



Rangoli art from the kindergarten VPK class.



A Jackson Pollack inspired group painting from a kindergarten, VPK class.



A young artist proudly pointing out his work.



She's very proud of her art.



Another artist points to a work of art that he contributed to, and that is strangely reminiscent of his shirt.



A sculpture created from painted, plastic cups that were glued in place.



Clay hand sculptures.



Acrylic puddle pouring art.



Sand art created by some of the students.



Art created by placing tape in the form of tree trunks, painting leaves, then removing the tape.



Water color art from some of the young artists.





Water color and "hand art" from some of the two year olds.