

itty-bitty art

AMON
CARTER
MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN
ART

Fine Motor Fun

Let's play! We've rounded up a handful of fun, frisky Carter artworks ready to challenge your brains and bodies. Brighten up your playtime with these books and activities, practicing some helpful fine motor movements to build strong, agile fingers. Check out [The Warren Center](#) for more information about fine motor development in children of all abilities!

Tissue Paper Crunch

Celebrate Gabriel Dawe's sculpture by crunching, scrunching, and tossing colorful tissue paper into the air! Flutter a sheet of tissue paper over your baby's head and encourage them to reach for it or play peek-a-boo. Bunch your paper into balls and roll or toss them back and forth. Wad the paper up as tightly as you can and then work together to unfurl it.

Sensory Squishing

Elfi Schuselka's screen print, *Pieces of Sky*, makes us want to take flight! Spend some time squishing your sky-themed sensory pouch or make one of your own with a resealable plastic bag, some clear hair gel, small toys or stickers, and glitter. Scoot the objects around using your fingertips, trace designs in the gel with your fingernails, or just watch the glitter glimmer.

Going Fishing!

The children in Nell Dorr's photograph *Childhood Days* are playing in a sailboat! Gather some small toys or objects that you might find around the water, such as fish, boats, flip-flops, sunglasses, plants, or river stones. Use masking tape to attach your toys to a table or highchair, then encourage your infant to "fish" each object out! Challenge your older infant by having them use tools, like spoons or clothespins, to complete the task.



Sticky Wall

It looks like the child in William Harnett's *Attention, Company!* is playing soldier. The details feel so real, we can practically peel the wallpaper off the background! Create your own textured fun by taping clear contact paper onto a table, window, or wall and allowing your baby to stick objects to the surface. Try paper, fabric, plastic lids, yarn, or other baby-safe bits and bobs. For an extra challenge, have your baby peel the objects off once the surface is full!

Check it Out!

Reading books with your little one can help build their fine motor skills! In addition to building literacy, turning pages, pointing at pictures or words, and playing with interactive or touch-and-feel books are great fine motor and hand-eye coordination practice. Here are some interactive board books that you can check out from Fort Worth Public Library:

[Bb! by C. Hope Flinchbaugh](#)

[La Gallina Feliz by Jack Tickle](#)

[Through the Town by Craig Shuttlewood](#)

[Bizzy Bear: Race Car Driver by Benji Davies](#)

The Fort Worth Public Library is building a community of learners, dreamers, and doers with the help of great collaborators across the City of Fort Worth. Visit their website, fortworthlibrary.org, and explore their uniquely creative and diverse programming for all ages on their YouTube channel at YouTube.com/fwlibrary.



William H. Harnett (1848–1892)

Attention, Company!, 1878

Oil on canvas

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas
1970.230



Elfi Schuselka (b. 1948)

Pieces of the Sky, 1971

Screenprint

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, Gift of C. Troup Gallery, Dallas

© 1971 Elfi Schuselka

1971.60



Gabriel Dawe (b. 1973)
Plexus no. 34, 2016
Gütermann thread, painted wood, hooks

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas,
© 2016 Gabriel Dawe
2018.113



Nell Dorr (1893–1988)
Childhood Days, ca. 1924
Gelatin silver print

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, Gift of the
Estate of Nell Dorr
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P1990.45.229