



# Natural Playgrounds Store

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## Art Easels

**NMS-AE**

**Shipping Weight: 115 lbs**

**Shipping Dimensions: 72"L X 27"W X 6"H**

**Brand: Natural Playgrounds Company**

**Toxicity: treated with child friendly wood preservative**

**Age Appropriateness: all ages**

Art Easels are a must on a playground. 33% of children are visual learners, and children who make art read better and get better grades, so art should be an important activity outside as well, because the outdoor environment stimulates all kinds of sensations that children can't get inside.

It's well known that art develops hand and eye coordination, stimulates perception, allows exploration of ideas, encourages creative solutions, enhances critical thinking, provides a way to reflect on feelings, and allows children to be more self-aware and to express thoughts or emotions in new ways, so these Art Panels should play a critical role in your outdoor curriculum.

We have two very different Art Easels available: one has a clear acrylic, see through panel, and one has a 2-sided magnetic chalkboard panel.

Painting directly on the washable, clear panel, or on paper attached to it, gives children a place to express themselves. And because they can see the world through the panels, they pay more attention to, and will be challenged trying to capture, the outdoor world and the space that surrounds them.

The other neat thing about these clear, see-through panels is that children can work on both sides which fosters cooperative and parallel play. They can also "trace" each other's outlines, which is great fun while encouraging social interaction.

Clear Panels are made of acrylic, and the entire unit is completely washable, which makes cleanup simple.

The other panel is a 2-sided, Magnetic Chalkboard, offering all kinds of artistic, creative, and imaginative play and learning options, from writing/drawing on the panels with differently-colored chalk, to sticking magnetized objects on them. Some people have magnetic animals, trees, and so on, so that "scenes" can be created. Other centers have tubes and plastic channels that can be arranged so sand and water flows from one to the other. Endless play!!

Standard size Art Easels are a 2x3', and they have a small shelf 12" off the ground.

And if you want feet so the easel rests on top of the ground and can be moved, please order the option with feet. If it gets real windy, don't forget that the art easels are like sails, so they can catch the wind and blow over. We suggest that if you get the feet, just move the easel close to the building when you're done using it, or if it's going to be blustery, you can always lay the easel on the ground until the wind dies down!

Comes as a kit with complete, easy installation instructions.

Further notes regarding the clear panel:

Children can write directly on the clear panel with non-permanent markers (although their art won't be very dark) or with water soluble finger paint.

Another option is to just use the panel as a backdrop on which you hang drawing/painting paper with masking tape.

Another option is to get the architectural tracing paper (comes in white and buff, and it's cheap). Because it's translucent, if it's taped to the clear panel, the kids can kind of see through the paper and "trace" objects they see on the other side or in the distance, or other children who are standing on the backside.

Another option is to mix up slurries of mud, say, or different colored liquid paints, and then use these as you would finger paint.

Another idea is to use different colored, small sticky notes to create collages.

Or get some gel paper (that colored transparent material used for stage spotlights or similar) that can be cut into odd shapes and used to create a "stained glass" look.

And so on :)))