



VISUAL ART4

FOR FAMILIES

FOURTH GRADE

What to expect:

In fourth grade, your child is better able to understand and think about the art they and others are creating. They will use art vocabulary such as the elements of art (line, shape, etc.) and principles of design (balance, contrast, etc.) to compare and determine the quality of a given work of art. Their abilities are growing in drawing, painting, sculpture, graphics and other forms of creative expression. They will work with many kinds of materials (crayon, paint, soft pencils, etc.) to make art.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Brainstorm and work with classmates to create artworks that are meaningful to everyone who made them.
- Learn about new techniques that could be used to make art (for example, mixing materials such as sand or foam into acrylic paint to create textures on canvas).
- Understand and practice how to make art safely.
- Make changes to their artwork after hearing the opinions of classmates. (For example, a student who is painting the ocean might learn from a student who has visited the ocean that the blue near the horizon is darker than the blue near the shoreline. This might cause the student to rethink their color choice and mix a darker shade of blue.)
- Use what they know about art resources, tools and technologies to learn more about an idea through the process of making art (for example, by exploring texture through leaf rubbings).
- Tell how works of art from different times, places and cultures are alike and different.
- Experiment with new ways to make art (swirling oil paint into water and placing a paper on the surface of the water to see what happens, for example).

What to do at home:

- Display your child's artwork at home and take pictures of it to share with family.
- Look for art in the world around your child, such as murals, statues, billboards, etc.
- Make art together at home. Ask your child to design cards for special occasions like birthdays and holidays, then share them with friends and family.
- Ask questions about the furniture in your home or another place familiar to your child, such as "Why do you think it was made this way?" and "What would you change?"

You are your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support visual art learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and are motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to develop curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's artistic curiosity with questions like these:

- When you look at this picture, what do you like about it? What do you not like about it?
- How would you make a picture like this?

If your child seems to be interested in drawing and creating, encourage them by providing supplies (paper, crayons, pencils, etc.) and draw with them. You can also use cardboard from shipping or cereal boxes to create sculptures and other things kids are interested in, like spaceships, animals, robots, etc. Find videos of how to make art online (such as Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems or Bob Ross videos) to watch together.

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's art communication skills with questions like these:

- What kinds of things do you notice the artist used in this picture? Do you see particular shapes, lines, colors or other things that went into making it?
- Which element is the most obvious? Why do you think the artist chose to highlight that element, and what could that mean?

Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge and learning. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect art with reading and writing. Ask your child to create three drawings and then think of a story that links them together. Add to the story with more drawings, then write the story on the drawing pages. Create a finished book by stapling or fastening the pages together and adding a cover.
- Connect art with history. Look at old family photos and talk about why they look the way they do. Search online for old photos of presidents or other famous Americans to examine the history of the nation through the history of photography.

Join the conversation!

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