



VISUAL ART

FOR FAMILIES

KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Children in kindergarten are exploring imaginative play with various materials. They are able to experiment with different media (crayon, paint, paper, etc.) to create art and explain their creation process. They are understanding the world through seeing, touching, hearing and motion, and are beginning to understand artistic expression.

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

- Use various approaches to art-making, such as creating a self-portrait with crayons or Play-Doh.
- Explain the process for making art. (For example, to create a collage of an owl, students will need to decide what supplies to use and come up with steps to follow.)
- Explore art terms such as line, color, form, shape, texture, value and space. (For example, students could describe the lines they see on a picture of a turtle after using their fingers to draw them in the air.)
- Explain what an art museum is.
- Identify images in their environment and what they represent (the school mascot, for example).
- Identify and interpret art by describing details of a given work. (For example, in a work of art depicting a young girl, students might be asked to describe how old the girl is, what she is doing, what colors she is wearing, etc.)

What to do at home:

- Ask questions about the art they made at school, such as “Why did you choose this color?” and “What does this mean?”
- Look for art in the world around your child, such as murals, statues, billboards, etc.
- Make art together at home. Be creative and use fabric, paper, beads, food, etc., to create art.
- Ask questions about consumer art (logos, food packaging, etc.) such as “Why do you think they chose that color?” and “How do you think we could make it better?”

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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