



VISUAL ART

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FOR FAMILIES

FIRST GRADE

What to expect:

Children in first grade are using their imaginations and working with others through play to make things with a variety of materials. They are able to experiment with different tools (scissors, paintbrushes, rolling pins, cookie cutters, stencils, etc.) and materials such as crayon, paper/cardboard, etc., and can describe the choices they are making when they are creating art. They are starting to understand that humans have made art throughout history for a variety of reasons.

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

- Practice using common tools and materials to make art (for example, using a ruler to draw straight lines, using a stencil, etc.).
- Use art terms such as line, color, form, shape, texture, value and space to describe personal artistic choices.
- Show respect for their own artwork and artwork created by others by using positive descriptive words, such as “I like the colors you used on your sky,” “Your coloring is very neat,” etc.
- Put the pieces they have created in a safe space to create a personal collection.

What to do at home:

- Ask questions about the art your child made at school, such as “Why did you choose this color?”, “How did you feel when you made this?” 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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