



VISUAL ART

2

FOR FAMILIES

SECOND GRADE

What to expect:

Children in second grade are learning about art with others while creating their own art. They are trying various materials such as crayon, paint, paper/cardboard and modeling materials, and techniques such as cutting lines and curves, measuring with a ruler, using stencils, etc. In addition, they are able to describe works of art using the elements of art (color, line, shape, etc.) and principles of design (contrast, proportion, emphasis, etc).

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

- Use different materials and tools to make art about topics that interest them (using paper, scissors and glue to create a collage, for example).
- Understand and practice safe ways to use and clean art tools and studio spaces.
- Discuss and think back on the choices they made in creating a piece of art.
- Create original works of art using traditional (pastels, clay, etc.) and non-traditional (leaves, recycled items, etc.) materials.
- Describe the appearance and subject of works of art while pointing out various artistic elements (line, color, form, etc.) and design principles (balance, contrast, repetition, etc.) used by the artist.

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. Ask your child to design cards for special occasions like birthdays and holidays, then print them at a local copy shop.
- 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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