



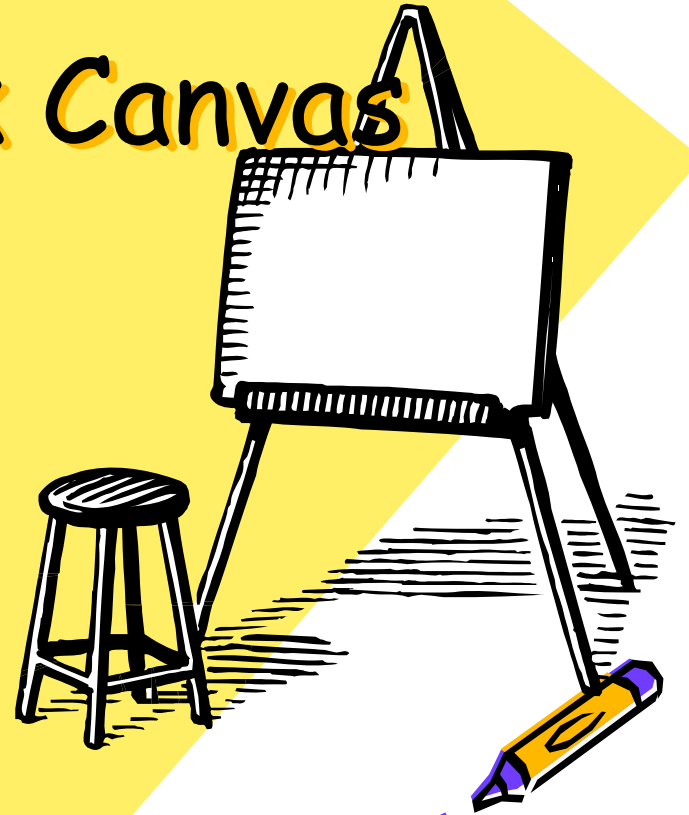
Facing the Blank Canvas

Creativity and Artistic
Development in Children

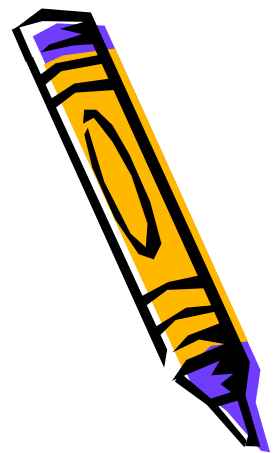
By Diana Anderson

Children's Librarian

McMinnville Public Library



Why Art?



- At each stage children's art gives us a wide open window to glimpse their perception of their world. A child's use of color, size, scale, body posture, body depiction, subject matter and much more, all give us insightful information about her sense of well being and sense of self and their environment.





"Too often, the arts have been thought of as a nice, but rather non-essential part of education. When we give our children the chance to explore and develop their own creativity, we encourage the sensitivity and ability for self-expression that is so crucial a part of the well-informed, well-educated person."

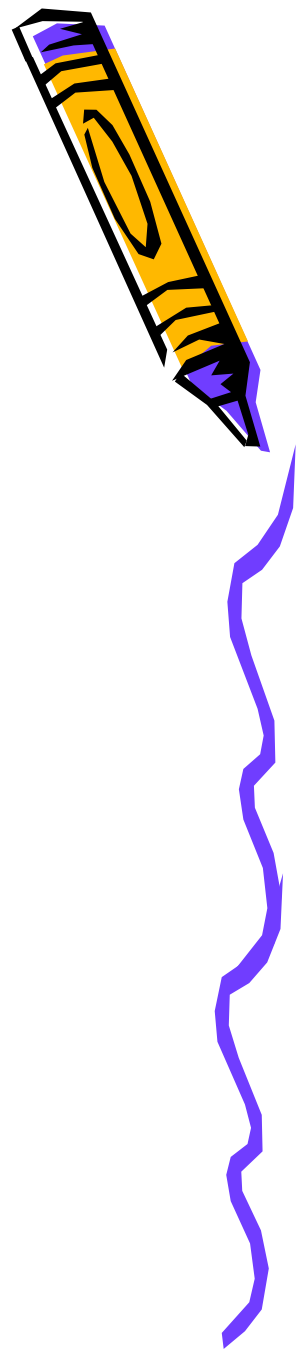
Robert F. Kennedy



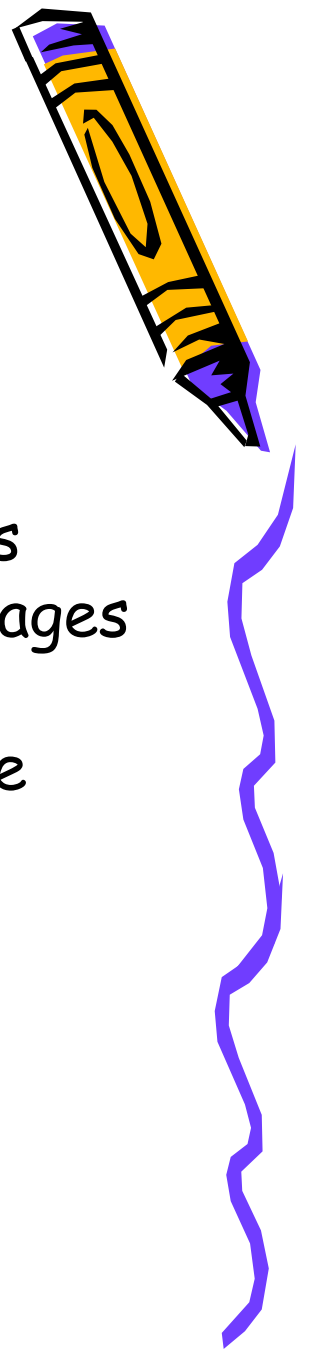
Skills enhanced by arts and crafts:

Logic
Aesthetic Appreciation
Creativity
Self-esteem
Fine Motor
Expression of Emotions
Gross Motor
Social Awareness
Individuality
Hand-to-Eye Coordination

From article **Developmental Art Stages - Art And Your Child**
By Danielle Schultz



Art Therapy

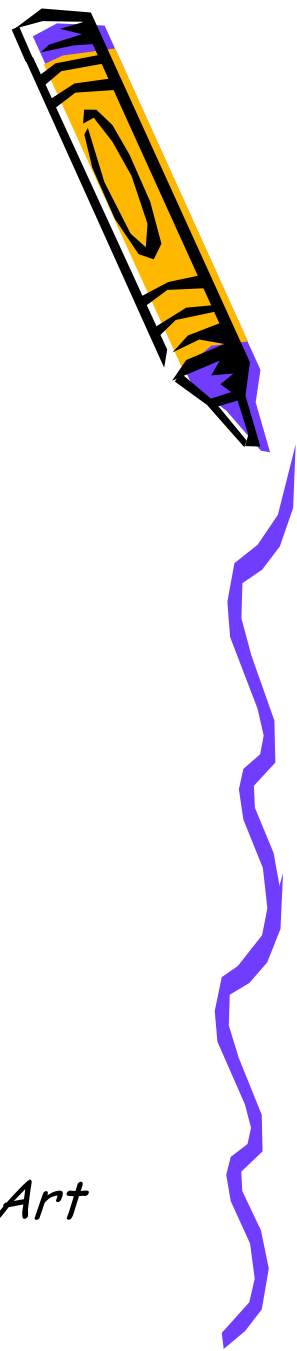


- Definition

- Art therapy, sometimes called creative arts therapy or expressive arts therapy, encourages people to express and understand emotions through artistic expression and through the creative process. Art therapists are professionally trained in both art and psychology.



Stages of Art Development in Children



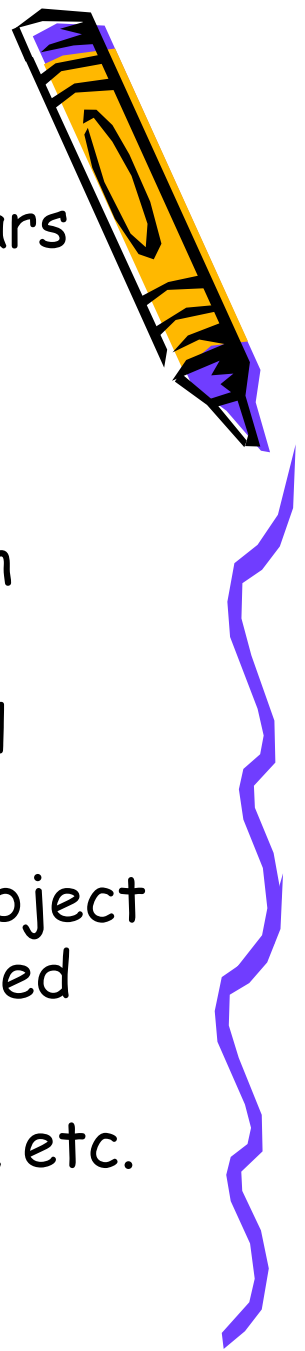
- Scribble 2 - 4 years
- Line 4 years
- Descriptive Symbolism 5 - 6 years
- Descriptive Realism 7 - 8 years
- Visual Realism 9 - 10 years
- Repression 11 - 14 years
- Artistic Revival 14 years

» From Herbert Read *Education Through Art*
1966

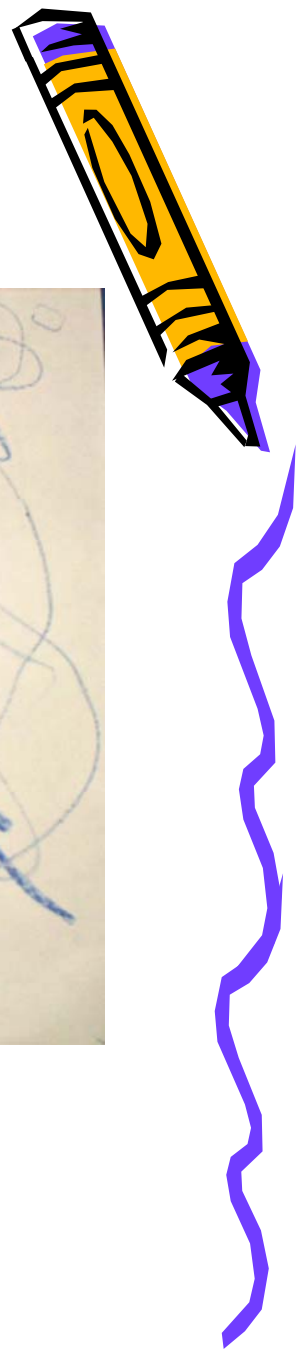


Scribble

- Typically, children are about 18 months to 3 years old when they are at this stage of development.
- Children make random scribbles and explore materials in a playful way.
- At first the scribbles are uncontrolled and then progressively become controlled.
- Children are experimenting with holding a pencil (left or right handed).
- The drawer discovers and points to a familiar object found in the random scribble. This is called named scribble.
- Children are learning to talk about marks, color, etc.

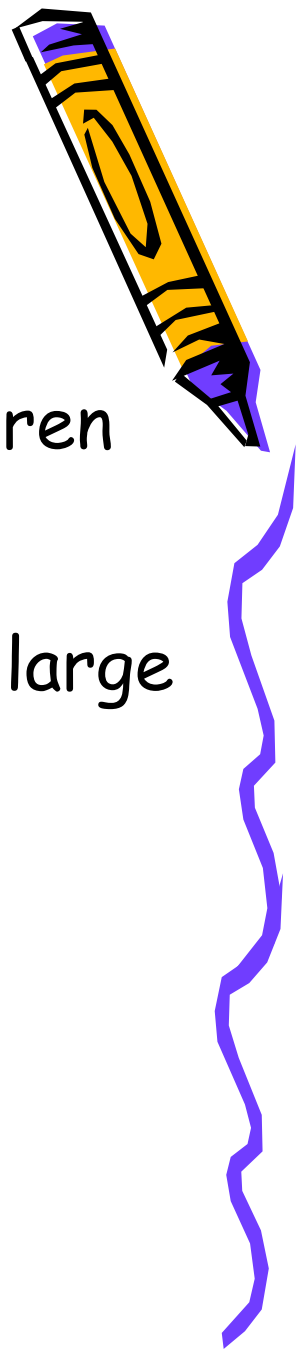


3 year old girl's drawing of a "snake mother and a helicopter on a mountain oozing lava". This is the named scribble stage.



PRE-SCHEMATIC STAGE

- Ages 2 to 4 years old.
- Colors are used unrealistically and children tend to use their favorite colors.
- Draw simple people with few features.
- Tadpole figure people are drawn with a large head on tiny body with extended arms.
- Objects are floating in space - not anchored.
- Figure is normally three heads high.
- X-ray drawings - show interiors and exteriors at the same time.



4 year old girl's Drawing

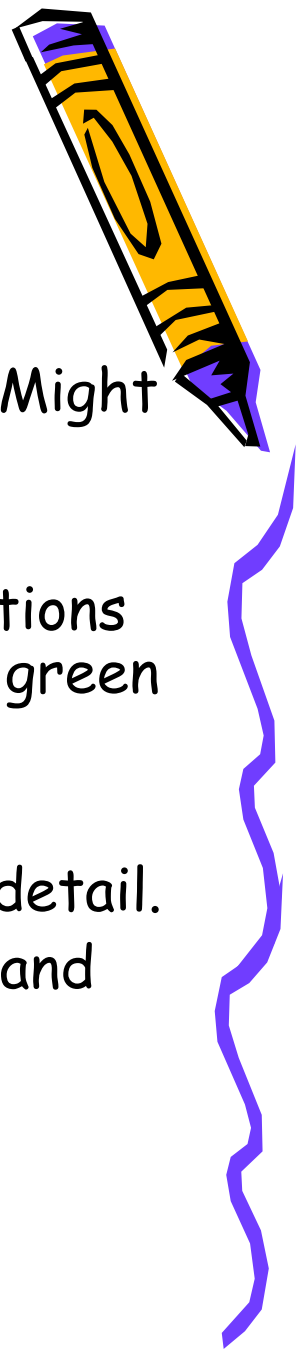


- It is Saturday and sunny.
- She is doing soccer.
- The girl is 5 years old.
- There is a small yellow face beside the figure.



SCHEMATIC STAGE

- Ages 5 to 8 years old.
- Children have a set schema about a way of drawing. Might draw a fish in the same way in many drawings.
- Use more realistic color.
- Often make color choices based on stereotypical notions of the proper color of things such as a blue sky and green grass.
- A sky line and ground line start to show.
- More proportionate body and head and shows more detail.
- Start to understand relationship between their art and their world.
- Create stories to go along with their drawings.



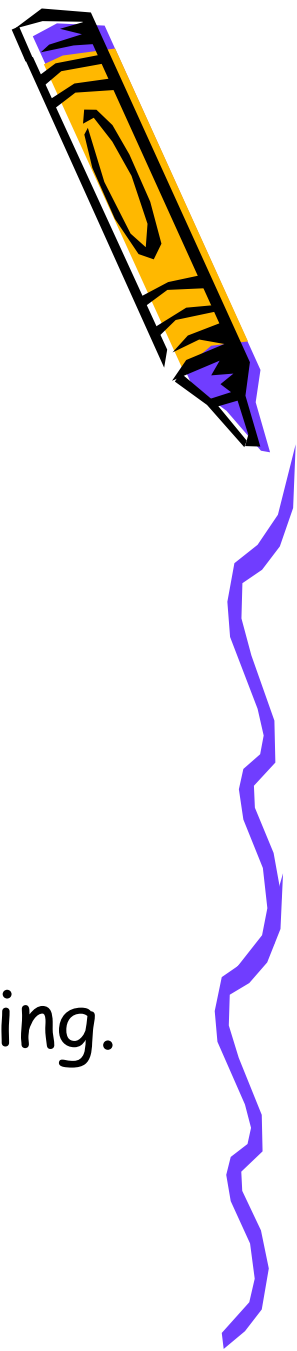
7 year old girl's drawing



- There is a door to a park under the rainbow.
- Very hot noted by the yellow waves in the corner
- Pink sun
- Note the use of the bottom of the paper as ground line.



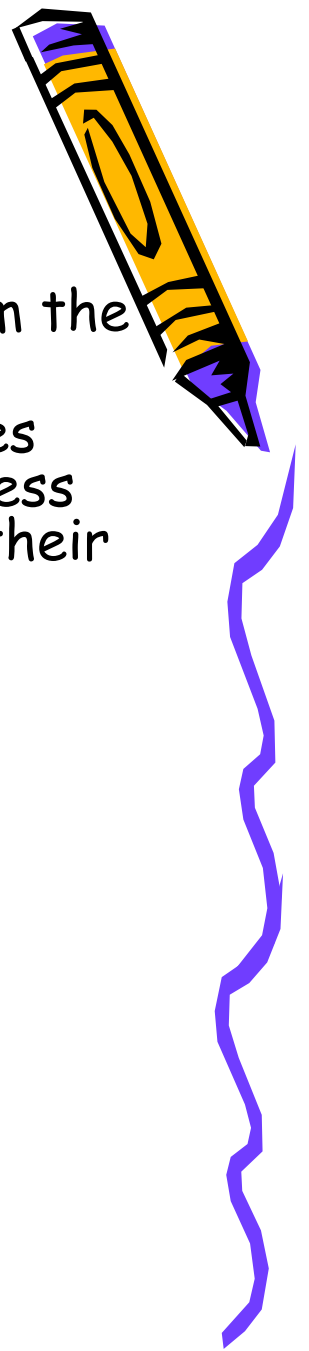
PRETEEN STAGE



- Ages 9 to 11 years old.
- Incorporate more detail in drawings.
- Want images to be very realistic and become frustrated if this cannot be achieved.
- The "I can't draw" syndrome typically starts to emerge at this stage.
- Use of perspective in space is developing.



PreTeens and Art



- The preadolescent stage is the last stage of development. Children are typically in this stage from the ages of ten to thirteen.
- Peers become the most important critics in their lives because they are developing more of a social awareness and social conscience. They want to be accepted by their peers and are embarrassed very easily.
- They want their art work to look realistic, and often times are discouraged by this difficult task.
- May discontinue expanding or practicing their art abilities.
- Encourage a self accepting attitude in the student.
- Many people remain in this stage through adulthood because they do not continue trying.





2 years



3 years



4 years



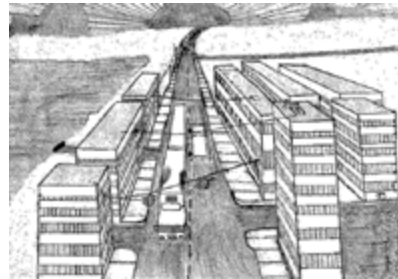
6 years



8 years



10 years

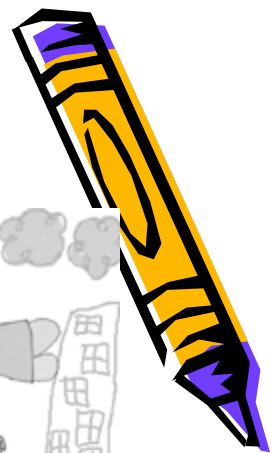


12 years



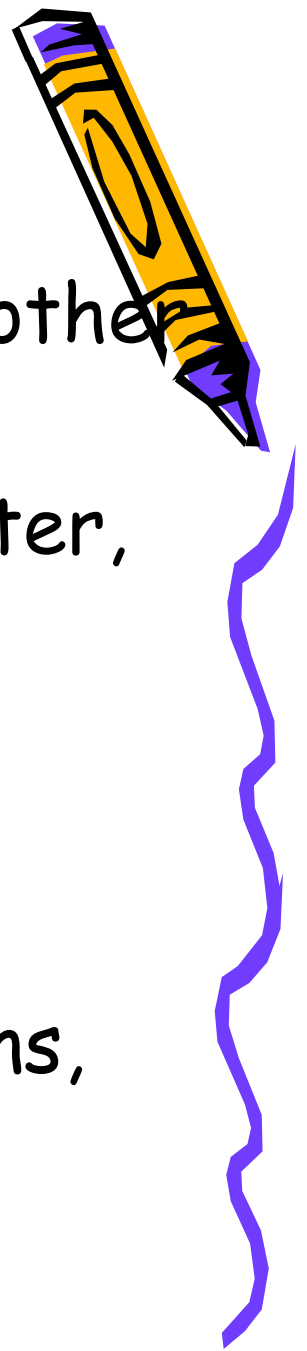
14 years up

Taken from Viktor Lowenthal's "Creative Mental Growth"



Media

- Pencils, colored pencils, markers, and other drawing materials
- Clay, 3-D materials such as wood, plaster, recycled materials
- Water media: acrylics, watercolors, fingerpaints, tempera.
- Mixed media such as paper, magazine images, glitter, brown bags, egg cartons, etc

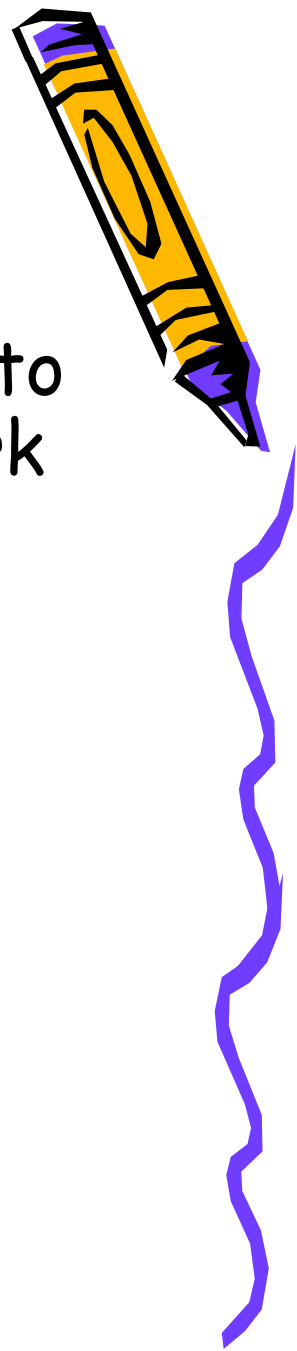


9 ways to fill up the blank canvas and encourage creativity

adapted from the website by Kelly Jo Murphy

There are many things that you can do to nurture children's. These can even work for yourself.

1. Freedom
2. Be an example of a creative person in action
3. Respect



4. Emotional Detachment from the outcome

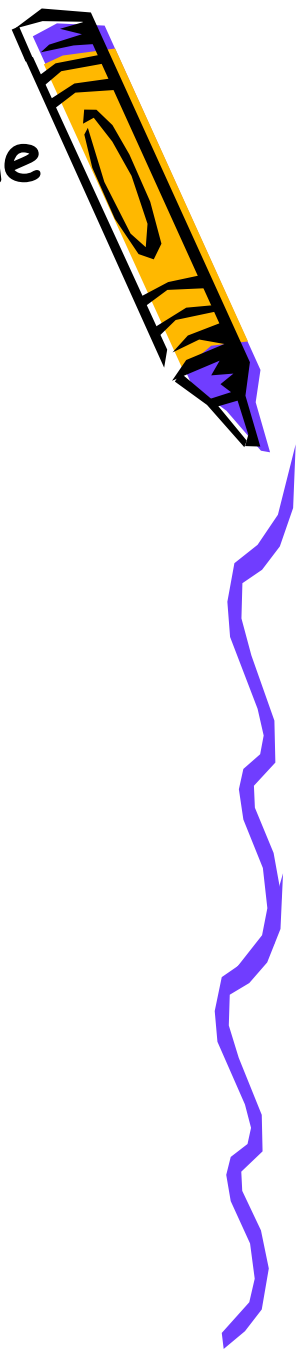
5. The process not the product

6. Achievement not grades

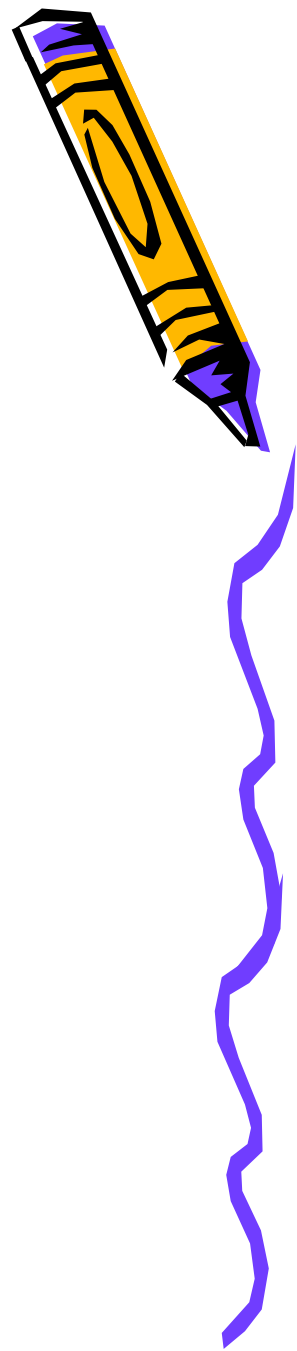
7. Appreciate creativity

8. Maximize success

9. Have fun, a sense of humor



Early Literacy, Books and the Arts

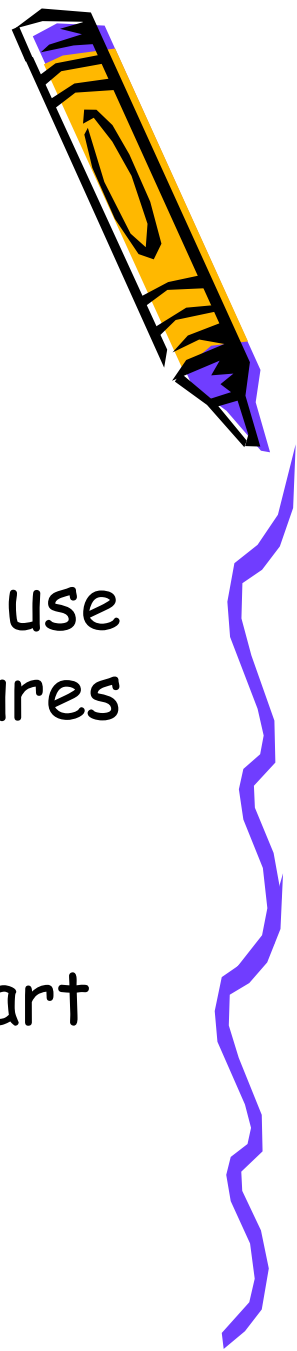


- The 6 Early Literacy Skills
 - Print Motivation
 - Print Awareness
 - Vocabulary
 - Phonological Awareness
 - Narrative
 - Letter Knowledge



Print Motivation

is having an interest in and enjoyment of books.

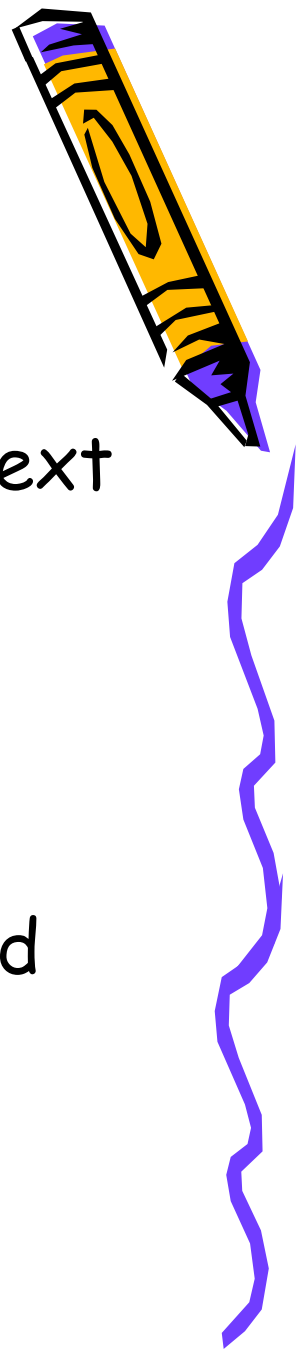


- Art ideas:
 - Create their own book
 - Provide a blank book for the child to use in creating their own story with pictures and words.
 - Create pop up or flap books
 - Use books as a starting point for an art project.



Print Awareness

is noticing print is everywhere.



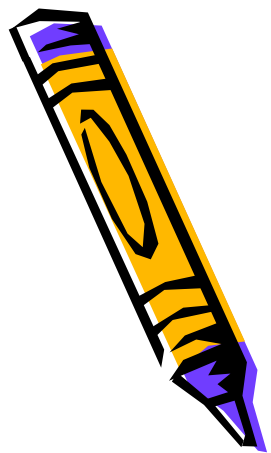
- Art ideas:
 - Use stamps and ink to create print/text or alphabet.
 - Create signs for their rooms using words or just symbols.
 - Text used in collage or drawing.
Newspaper glued to paper and painted over.



Vocabulary

is knowing the names of things.

- Art Ideas:
 - Provide different art tools to expand vocabulary
 - Colors and color mixing; naming colors
 - Using magazine images to make a collage



Phonological Awareness

is the ability to hear and play with smaller sounds in words.



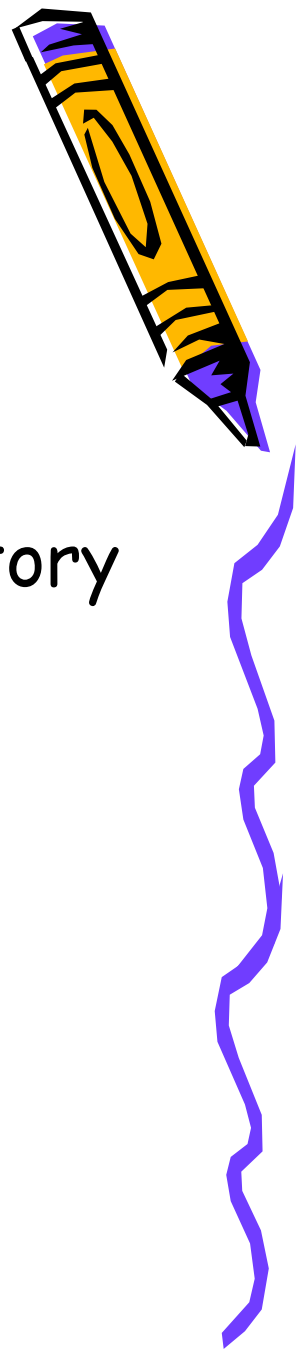
- Art Ideas:

- Create musical instruments that create sounds. Drums, shakers, blocks, etc.



Narrative Skills

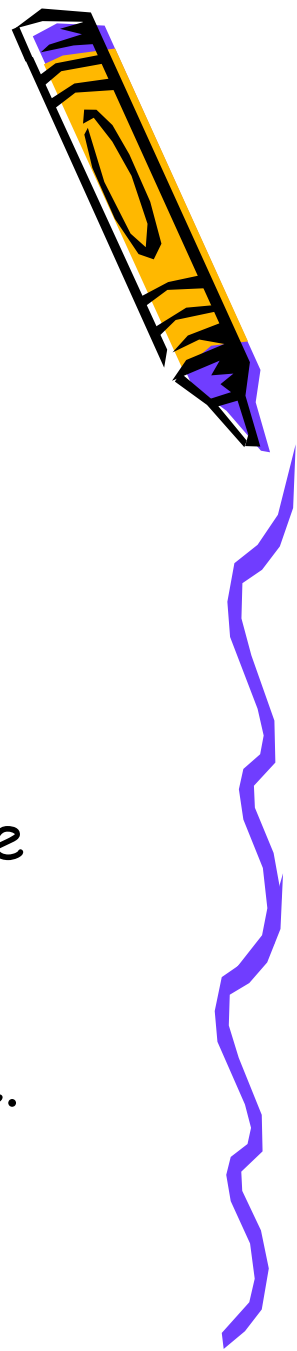
are the ability to describe things and events and to tell stories.



- Art ideas:
 - Draw a picture and write down the story for the child.
 - Create a story from a wordless book.



Dialogic Reading and Art



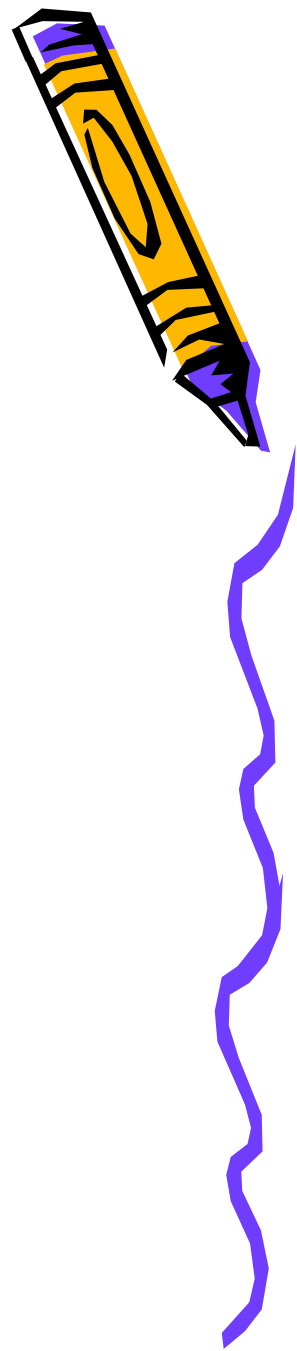
- Conversations about the children's drawing/painting.
 - Asking questions.
 - Writing down the story. See letter knowledge, print awareness and narrative skills.
 - One on one conversation, adult and child interaction around pictures and language.



Letter Knowledge

is knowing that letters are different from each other and that they have a name and a specific sound.

- Art ideas:
 - Many games to play with letters.
 - Draw and tell using a letter.
 - Different textures for letters to help children who are tactile learners.
 - Exploring shapes.



Little Blue and Little Yellow by Leo Lionni



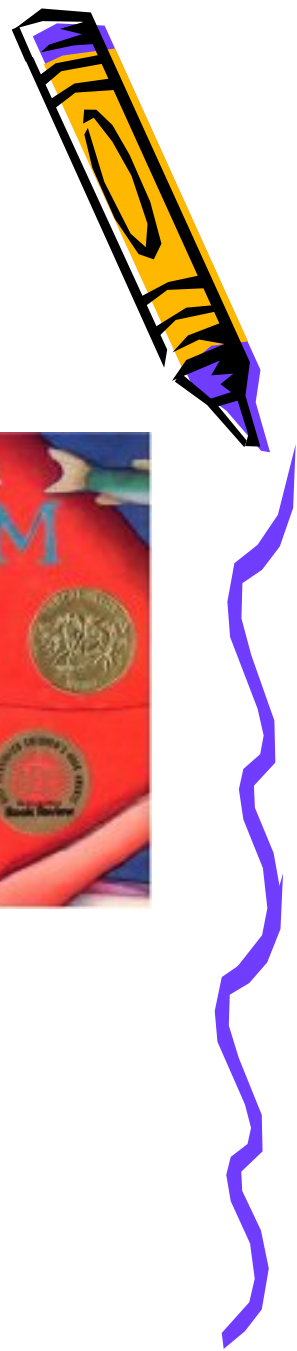
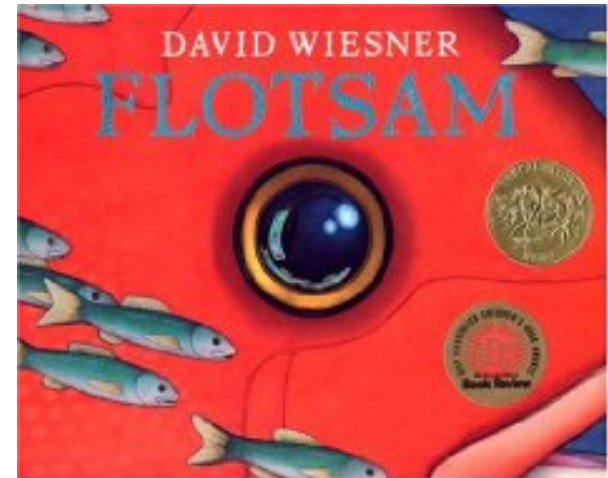
- Art ideas
 - Color mixing and naming colors (vocabulary)
 - Making predictions (narrative skills)
 - Create a collage of torn shapes
 - Use cellophane



Flotsam

by David Wiesner

- Wordless Books
 - Create stories based on the pictures (print motivation, print awareness, vocabulary, narrative skills)
 - Create picture that predict what might happen (narrative skills)

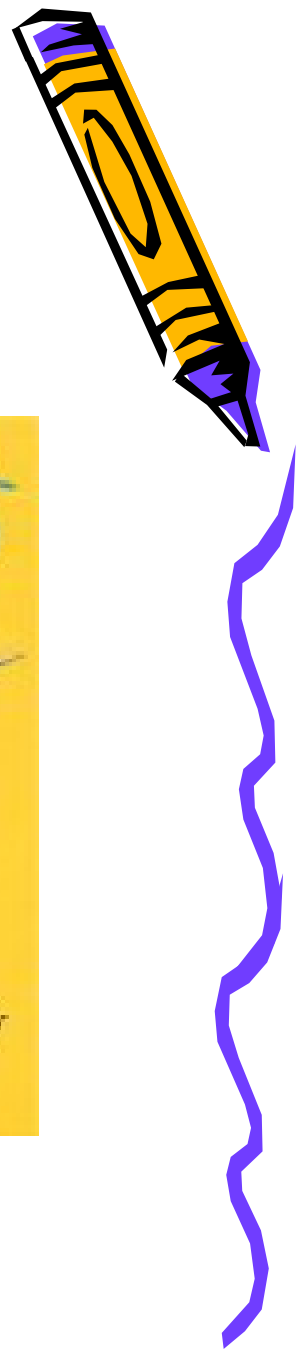
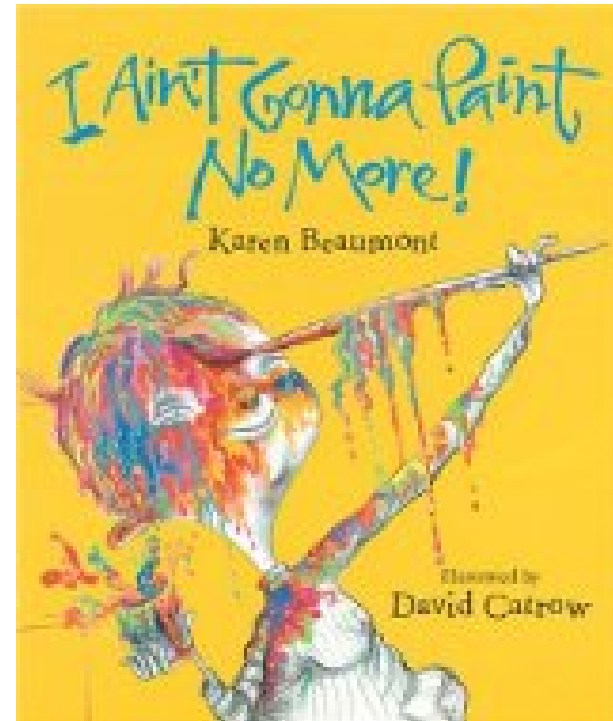


I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!

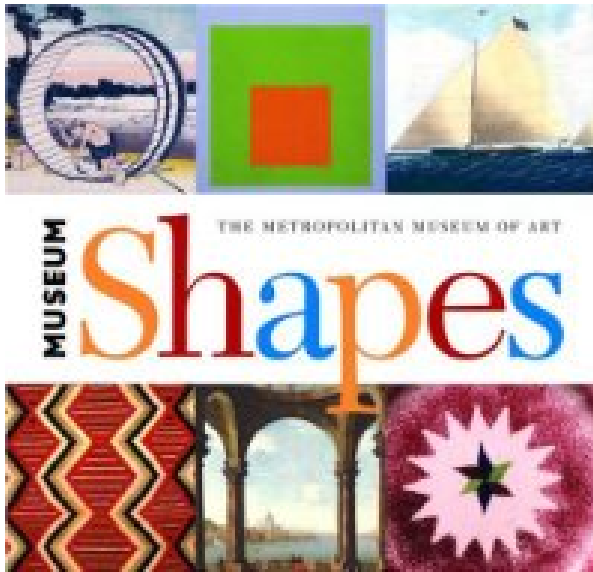
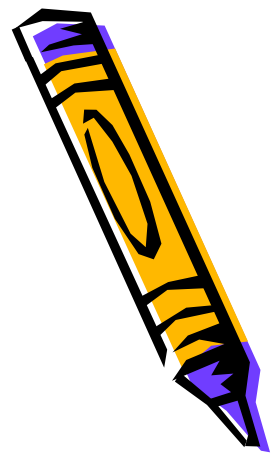
By Karen Beaumont

- Art Ideas

- Exploration of media
- Discuss color names



Museum Shapes by Metropolitan Museum of Art



- Art ideas:
 - Discuss shapes and how they are used in letter formation.
 - Art appreciation and vocabulary.



The Dot

By Peter H. Reynolds

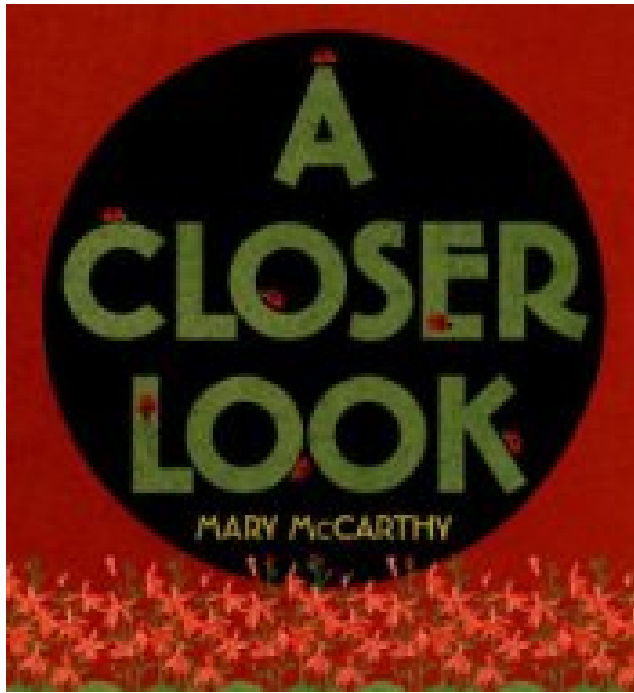


- Art ideas

- Like the book "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." (narrative skills)
- Explore shapes such as circles, squares, triangles. (letter knowledge)
- Squiggles and lines all over the page and then create something from those lines.
- Encourage self esteem and process not product.



A Closer Look by Mary McCarthy

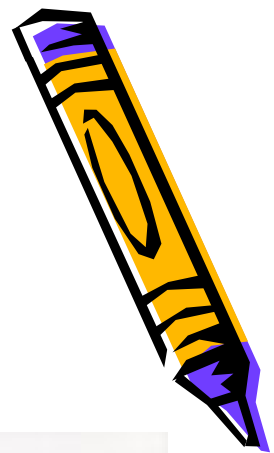


- Predictions
- Shapes
- Seeing objects in part and whole

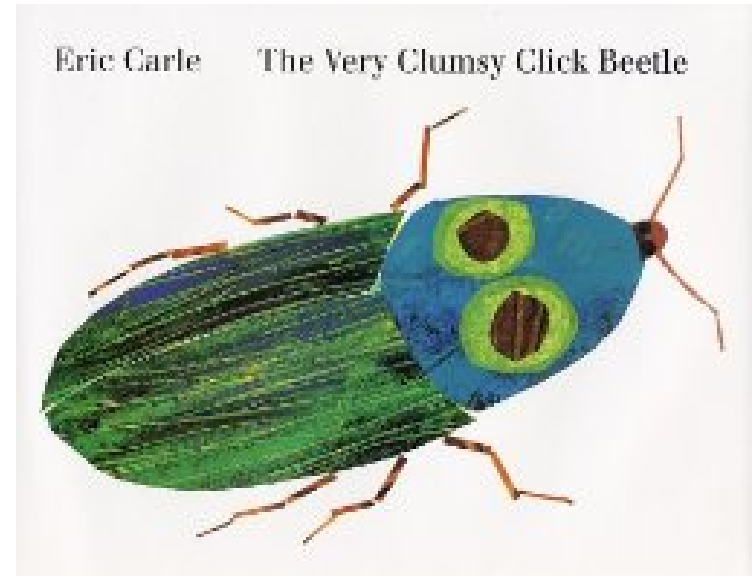


The Very Clumsy Click Beetle

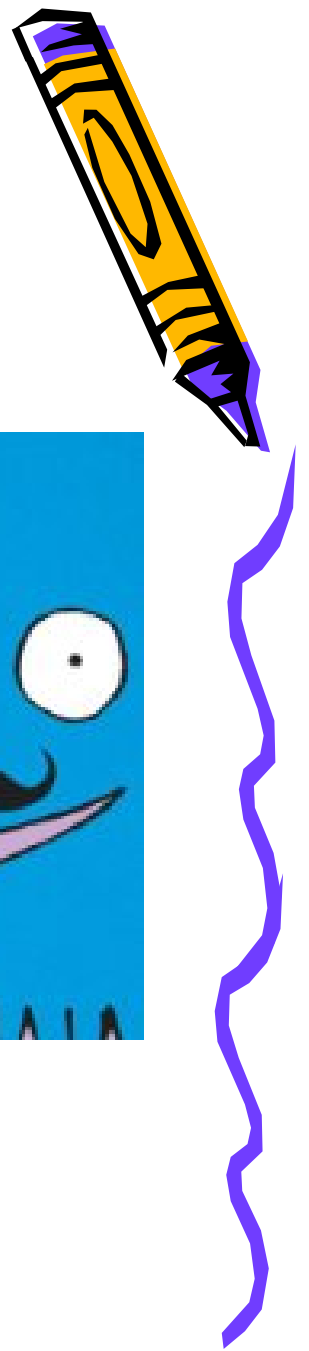
by
Eric Carle



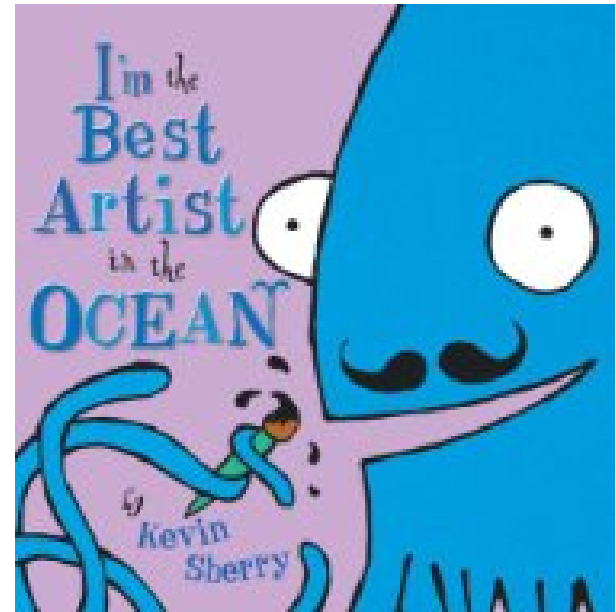
- Color mixing/paste papers
- Cutting shapes (letter knowledge)
- Collage
- Creating a story (narrative skills)



I'm the Best Artist in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry



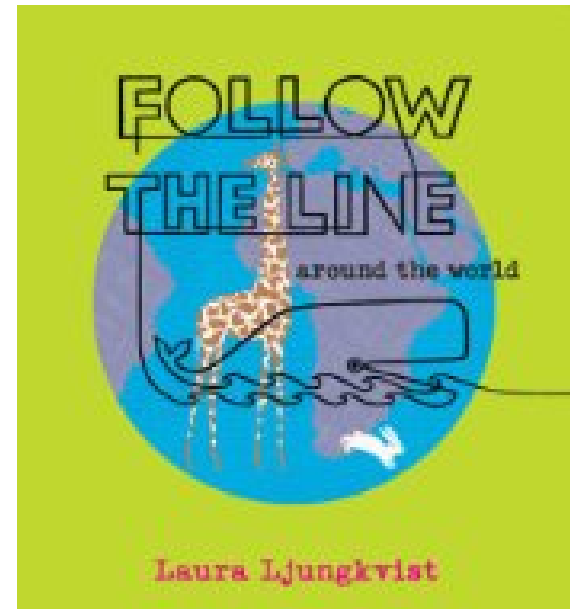
- Just plain fun



Follow the Line and other of the series by Laura Ljungkvist

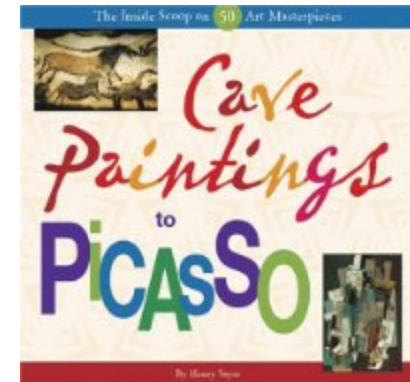
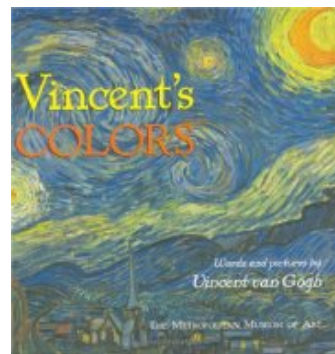
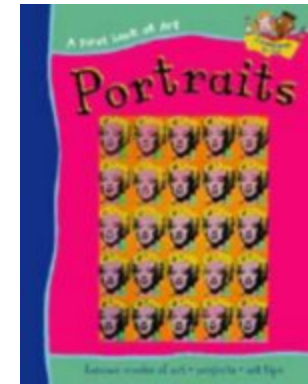
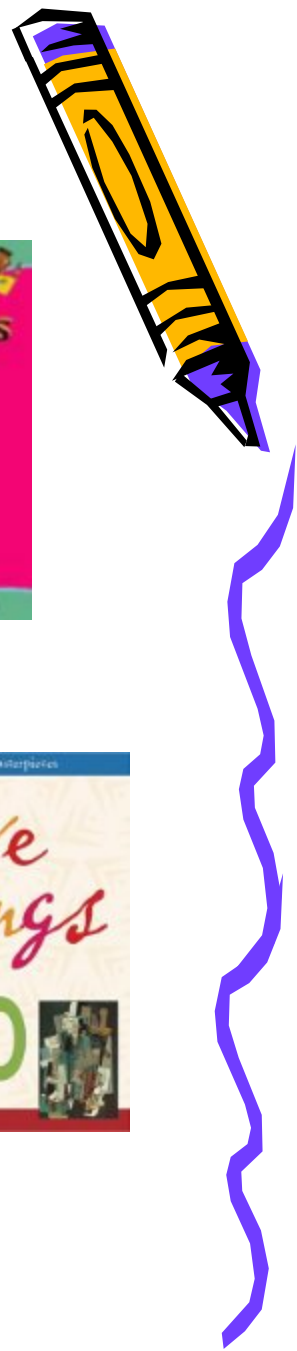


- Use of line to tell a story (narrative)
- Conversations with a line between a child and an adult (narrative)



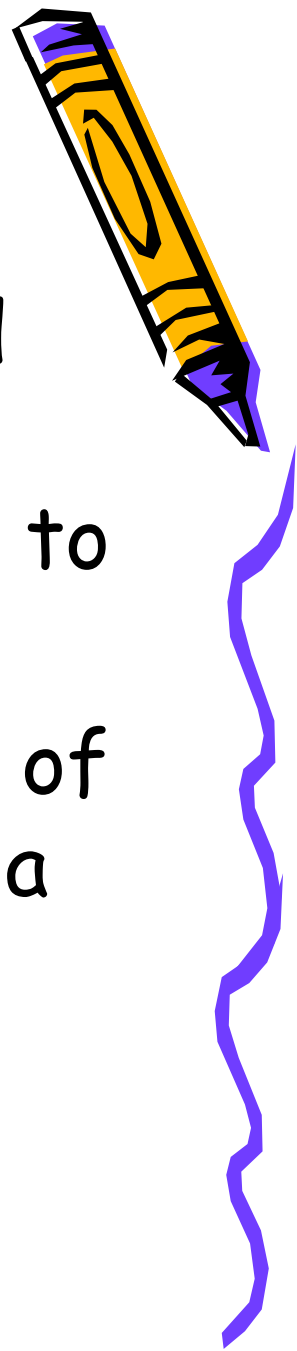
Non Fiction Titles

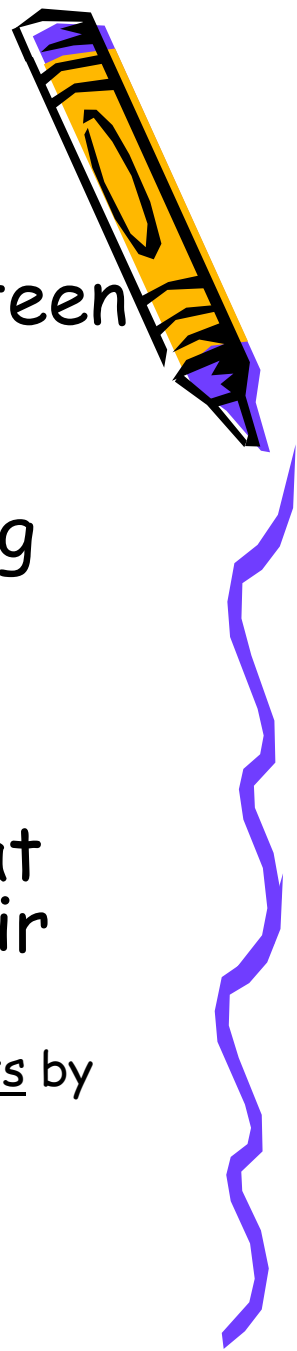
- Art appreciation
- Creating Stories around art
- Emotions (vocabulary)



Tweens and Teens

- This age is very self-conscious and often "hold back" when creating rather than risk drawing attention to themselves.
- Correlates with their development of self as individual and a member of a group.





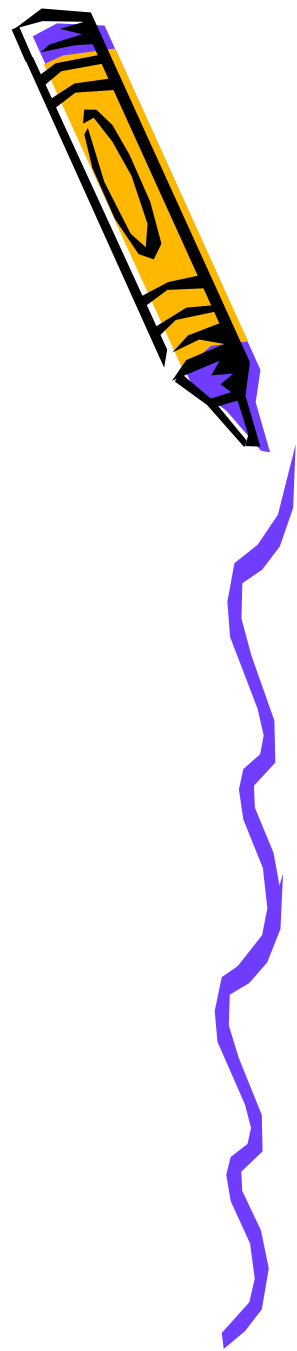
- Prefer to draw favoring black and red markers.
- Drawings tend to be stereotypic with teen logos/symbols
- A need to conform to peer standards, keeping adults at a distance and marking their identity.
- Tend to be perfectionists and highly critical, so collage is acceptable.
- Collage is seen as a way to make art that does not reveal their low opinion of their artistic capabilities.

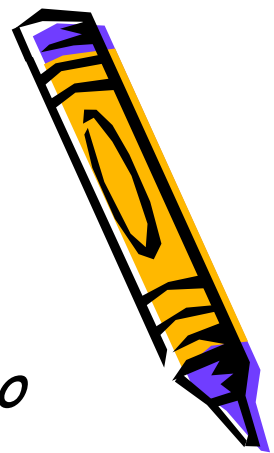
- From Contemporary Art Therapy with Adolescents by Shirley Riley



Art Ideas

- T-Shirts dyed or tie-dyed
- Journals
- CD jewel Case
- Jewelry
- Yarn Painting
- Altered Book
- Computer Art and Video production
- Group Murals





- Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. ~ *Pablo Picasso*
- Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up. ~ *Pablo Picasso*
- When my daughter was about seven years old, she asked me one day what I did at work. I told her I worked at the college- that my job was to teach people how to draw. She stared back at me, incredulous, and said, "You mean they forget?" ~ *Howard Ikemoto*



- Other ideas

- Try dramatics
- Battle of the Bands
- Group art projects
- Art appreciation (Warhol)
- Clothes design
- Painting related to lyrics of a favorite song

