



MetroFamily Field Guide: A Trip to the City Arts Center

By Erin Oldfield, City Arts Center Education Coordinator

Before you go:

Welcome to City Arts Center! Have fun exploring the exhibits and be sure to look into the many classes, workshops and camps offered all year long. When visiting the gallery, discuss your expectations with your child(ren) before your visit and always lead by example.

Gallery Manners:

- Use your eyes to see and not hands to touch! There are many places to put our hands; in our pockets, on our hips, on our heads but not on the walls or artwork. Our hands might look clean but they are actually covered with oils that can be devastating to artwork if touched.
- Stay three steps back. You will be less likely to run into trouble if you stay three steps back from the artwork.
- Put on your walking feet. We don't run, skip, hop or jump around in the gallery so we don't hurt the artwork or ourselves!
- Quiet voices. We use our quiet voices so everyone can enjoy the gallery experience.
- Have fun! Play games together. Pick a color of the day. It can be your magic color to find in the gallery. This will continue to engage your child as you make your way through the exhibits. Play 'I Spy' or 'Tell Me a Story'. Ask your child questions. There are many things to ask about beginning with simple concepts for little ones like color, lines, texture and shapes to more difficult concepts for older children like harmony, balance, dimension and movement.

Visit your local library to read about visiting a museum and art concepts:

- *Museum Trip* by Barbara Lehman
- *You Can't Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum* by Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman
- *Maisy Goes to the Museum* by Lucy Cousins
- *Come Look With Me: Exploring Art with your Children* Series by Gladys S. Blizzard

For your outing you will need:

Basic field guide kit, including small notebook and pencils.

Vocabulary to use while visiting:

You can use the elements of art to discuss any piece of artwork:

- *Line*: The path of a point moving through space.
- *Shape/Form*: Shape implies spatial form and is usually perceived as two-dimensional. Form has depth, length, and width and resides in space.
- *Color*: All colors come from the three primaries and black and white. They have three properties: hue, value, and intensity.
- *Value*: Monochromatic changes in light, contrast, line, texture and pattern.
- *Texture*: The tactile qualities of a surface (actual) or to the visual representation of such surface qualities (implied).
- *Space/Perspective*: Space refers to the area in which art is organized. Perspective is representing a volume of space or a 3-dimensional object on a flat surface.

Learning in Action:

Math

Shapes go beyond circles and squares. A shape has height and width. There are many kinds of shapes. Use your pencil to record all of the shapes that you see!

- *Geometric*- squares, circles, rectangles, triangles, etc.
- *Biomorphic*- free-form abstract shapes, related to plant and animal shapes.
- *Organic* – Shapes taken from nature such as leaves and other plant life.

Language Arts:

Artwork can make us feel many ways. Not all artwork is beautiful and happy. Some work may make us feel sad or angry. This might be accomplished through line, color or subject matter. Use your pencil and notebook to create a word cloud. Write as many descriptive words about the artwork in the cloud as you can, including words describing the piece and how it makes you feel.

Science:

Let the child hold an investigation to figure out how the artwork is made. Is it a painting? What type of paint? Is the piece a sculpture? What material(s) can you identify? What clues do you have to decide what medium the artwork is made from?

Visual Art:

Use your pencil to draw yourself at City Arts Center!

At-Home Activities:

Visual Art:

All about Lines: Lines are everywhere in artwork! Straight, wavy, zig-zag, curvy, dashed and more!

- Use pipe cleaners to bend and create your own lines.
- Use chalk to draw different lines on the sidewalk then walk on top of the lines.
- Create magic lines! Draw with white crayons on white paper. Then use watercolors on top to make your lines magically appear!

Science:

All about Color: Get Scientific! Mix it up in your color lab.

- Read the book, *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh.
- Use red, yellow and blue paint combinations to create your own colors.
- See what happens when you add white paint to any color.

Math:

All about Dimension: How to really stand out.

- 2-D: Measure of height and width. Examples in art: Paintings and drawings
- 3-D: Measure of height, width and depth. Examples in art: Sculptures

To better understand the terms 2-D and 3-D, cut 8 strips of colored construction paper. Choose 4 pieces and glue them flat on copy paper. Flat work like this is 2-Dimensional. Now use your other 4 strips of paper and make a small fold at the end of each piece so it has two feet. Glue or tape the feet to the paper, making your strips pop off the page. Works that pop off of the page are 3-Dimensional. Now continue to build on your paper sculpture by folding and cutting papers and gluing or taping them down to make your 3D sculpture really stand out!

For more resources, visit www.metrofamilymagazine.com