



## MetroFamily Field Guide: A Trip to the Oklahoma City Museum of Art

Located in the art district, the museum provides an opportunity to view world-class art right here in the city.

### Before you go

Talk about what art means to your children. What kind of art do they prefer? Paintings or sculpture? Realistic portraits or abstract?

Look for books about art and artists:

- ***Beautiful Oops*** by Barney Saltzberg
- ***American Artists Children Should Know*** by Brad Finger
- ***A Book About Color: A Clear and Simple Guide for Young Artists*** by Mark Gonyea
- ***Dog's Colorful Day: A Messy Story about Colors and Counting*** by Emma Dodd

Discuss and look up vocabulary words:

- Abstract
- Impressionist
- Realist
- Surreal
- Sculpture
- Perspective

Make flashcards with the words printed on one side and the definition on the other.

### For your outing you will need:

- Basic Field Guide kit (including small notebook, pencils, crayons, tape measure, ruler)
- Vocabulary word flashcards
- Camera

At the museum, be sure to check out a backpack from the front desk, which contains a family activity guide and tools for exploration including a viewfinder, felt shapes, question cards, color chips, kaleidoscope viewer and art supplies.

## Activities

### Language Arts

Search the museum's collection for artwork that matches your vocabulary words. If possible, take pictures of the artwork while holding up the relevant flashcard in front of the art. Please be sure to ask the museum staff before taking any photographs as photos are sometimes prohibited. If you can't take pictures, have your child sketch a quick picture of the art.

## Science

Discuss color; how can the primary colors (red, blue and yellow) be used to create more colors? Discuss the types of materials used to make various types of art; do paintings made with oil paints look different from paintings made with acrylic paints? How? (information on the materials used in the art can be found on the description cards located near each piece).

Discuss feelings; how does the piece of art make your child feel? Happy, sad, indifferent?

## Math

How is math used in art? Discuss the geometry of shapes used in the artwork (squares, circles, triangles, abstract shapes). What about perspective? Use the notebook in your Field Guide Kit or the felt shapes in the museum's backpack to recreate simple pictures using geometric shapes. What shapes do your children see in a skyline or a portrait?

## At-Home Activities

### Social Studies

How do different movements in art relate to the political and social happenings at the time the work was created? Pick one of the pieces of artwork that you photographed or studied at the museum and research more about that artist or that piece of art.

### Hands-on Art

Using primary colors of paint, make your own color wheel. Mix paints to create secondary colors (purple, green and orange). Include black and white to make darker and lighter variations of color.

For more resources, visit [www.metrofamilymagazine.com](http://www.metrofamilymagazine.com)