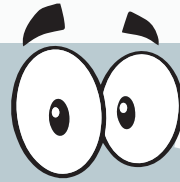


# EXPLORATIONS IN ART!

## Erin and Howard's Art Adventures in Julie's Kindergarten Class

A LOOK INTO OUR LESSONS...



### PAINT EXPLORATIONS

In our first lessons students dove right in working with acrylic paint. They explored color mixing, mark making using a variety of tools and proper painting techniques and application. The student artists' learned about art as a way to communicate ideas, feelings, and emotions through their artwork. This first lesson was key to gauging the students abilities and how to direct future lessons.

### SHAPES IN ART

In our next few lessons, students were introduced to using basic geometric shapes as a tool to help them draw complex forms such as animals, people, and objects. Students told stories through their art using shapes to depict themselves, their environment, a self-portrait, and an imaginative mask. In these lessons, students were introduced to oil pastels and watercolor, and began their discovery into more three-dimensional objects using collage/assemblage items.

### 3-DIMENSIONAL ART

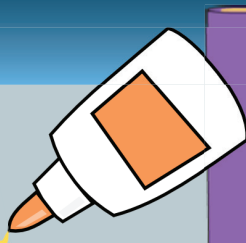
In our last lessons, students were able to explore with ceramic clay to create 3-dimensional artwork. They used different tools and techniques to manipulate the clay slabs and depict a real or imaginative animal and habitat. The students then utilized their prior painting knowledge of color mixing and painting technique to add color to their creatures/habitats and learn to paint on a three-dimensional surface.

### OUR UNIT!

This unit of study was designed to create a baseline art experience for kindergarten students. The lessons considered that, for some students, this may have been the first time that they used specific art materials. The students explored techniques and characteristics of various media.

The student artists received demonstration and explanations related to this work, but were also given opportunity to explore and to make and share discoveries of their own. Though the students produced many finished art projects, the emphasis of the lessons was on the process of making art and the decision and problem-solving skills that make art learning applicable to other academic subjects and personal pursuits.

For more details and a deeper look into each lesson, check out our teaching blog at:  
<https://explorationsinart.weebly.com>



## TOOLS AND MATERIALS USED...

In our unit, the kindergarten artists used many materials including:  
Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils, Acrylic Paint, Oil Pastels, Watercolors,  
Found Objects, Clay

## CONCEPTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS EXPLORED INCLUDED...

Storytelling through art, observation, exploration, creating, communication, shapes.

# Kindergarten Learning Standards in our Unit:

## OBSERVE AND LEARN TO COMPREHEND

### Comprehend:

For our kindergarten students, this unit relied heavily on verbal discussion as a means of documentation of their learning. The students made observations and learned about materials, techniques, and the processes of creating art through their own work, the work of others, and through descriptions and demonstrations in each lesson.

## INVENT AND DISCOVER TO CREATE

### Create:

Each lesson within this unit was largely focused on creation and designed to encourage students to experiment with the materials and techniques used. In our lessons students received a demonstration and engaged in a dialogue meant to help them develop an appropriate mastery and understanding of the materials used each lesson. Mastery and learning require practice and exploration as well as demonstration. By trying new things and developing their own understanding, the students developed the appropriate mastery for kindergarten artists.



## ENVISION AND CRITIQUE TO REFLECT

### Reflect:

Our kindergarten students made observations and discussed their own work, the work of their peers, and examples of historical and professional artwork regularly throughout the unit. The ability to think critically about a subject and to express their thinking about these art examples were important in communication and critical thinking during the lessons. Their recognition, analysis, and discussions were also important in the way they generated their own ideas and overcame challenges in art.

## OBSERVE AND LEARN TO COMPREHEND

### Transfer:

Students viewed examples of art from a variety of cultures depicting scenes of everyday life or special events. In these instances, students discussed the subject of the artwork as well as the features and characteristics of the work itself.

Students learned how to recognize shapes and their relation to one another within complex figures, the ability to think abstractly and to generate ideas, the confidence in the value of their own thoughts, and the capacity to persist in the face of difficulty or failure. These were all skills and lessons that students encountered in this unit.