

This Month's Homework:

Help your child to understand and appreciate art. Learning in very young children takes place through play, the active exploration of their environment, trial and error and most importantly through interactions with the significant adults in their lives. When we give them freedom to discover, they are learning to create and experiment in new and innovative ways.

- ✓ Encourage conversation with your child about their work. Ask open-ended questions like "Tell me about your picture." You can also describe specific things your child is doing by saying things such as, "You're making short lines, I see you are using red, green and blue." You can also describe the actions your child is taking or the materials they are using by saying things such as, "You are using a soft paintbrush, I noticed you are making small circles, you are using two crayons at the same time!"
- ✓ Focus on the process, not the product. Encouraging children in the action of unstructured art helps them work with intrinsic motivation. It teaches them to express themselves freely, without worrying about what others think. If a lot of attention is given to the final product or we spend a lot of energy praising the end result, a child may be more likely to do things to get your approval instead of doing what they want to do. Part of focusing on the process involves encouraging effort; exploration and effort are more important than the end product. Notice their hard work!
- ✓ Make art a part of your life. Have a variety of inexpensive art materials available; crayons, markers, safe scissors, paste, paper, old magazines, pieces of wrapping paper, play dough or reusable modeling clay. Involve your child in every step of the process, from set-up to clean up.
- ✓ Books about art are a great way to expose children to famous works of art, the lives of artists and even to a little geography all without having to leave your house. Visit your local library for children's books and picture books that introduce children to art and artists.
- ✓ Register for the online tools. If you have not done so yet, register for a Sign Up Genius account at <https://www.signupgenius.com> to receive Soar in 4 notifications and visit the Soar in 4 website at <http://www.soarin4.org/> for additional information and resources.

Standards Based Learning:

V. Cognitive Development and General Knowledge
D. Creative Expression Through the Arts
V.D.a.1, V.D.a.2, V.D.b.1, V.D.c.1, V.D.c.2

Inspire Creativity!

Schedule for the evening:

- ✧ **5:30-6:00 – Family Dinner in the Courtyard**
 - *Try our dinner questions!*
- ✧ **6:00 – Welcome – Planetarium Activities Begin**
- ✧ **6:10 – Get Connected, Get Answers**
 - *Margie Center & Goodwill Industries*
- ✧ **6:20 – Ms. Luanne's Front Porch**
- ✧ **6:30 – Story time with Mary J. Kelly, Association of Teaching Artists**
- ✧ **6:45 – Signs and Symbols Expedition – look for the symbols to follow the schedule for your school:**

	6:45	7:00	7:15
Ballard	Family Game Time 	Song Time 	Telling the Story 
Rogers Garden Bullock	Song Time 	Telling the Story 	Family Game Time 
Sea Breeze	Telling the Story 	Family Game Time 	Song Time 

7 Dinner Questions to Get those Little Ones Laughing and Talking

- ? **If you could make your whole house out of food – what food would you use?**
- ? **Tell me about a time you had to be really brave.**
- ? **If you were invisible – where would you want to go?**
- ? **Where would you fly if you had wings?**
- ? **What is your favorite family tradition?**
- ? **If you had \$100 to spend on anything what would you buy?**
- ? **What is one thing you don't know how to do that you wish you could?**



Make a story cloud: Draw your beginning, middle, and end. Can you sing a song about your story?

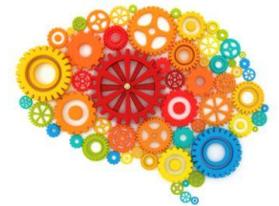
STORYTELLING

Ms. Luanne's Front Porch: use the words in the box to fill in the blanks:

_____ is anything that you make using your
 _____? Art helps us to _____ our
 world in new ways. _____ are people that
 _____ things. Art is all _____ us. Be
 _____ in your neighborhoods and discuss the art that
 you see and how it makes you feel. Let it inspire you to be
 _____.

**Art
 imagination
 experience
 Artists
 create
 around
 observant
 creative**

**30-second Pair & Share:
 Share something that you learned in this lesson. How can this affect your family story?**



Art appreciation helps young children learn to think and express ideas. Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches children how to interpret, criticize, use visual information, and how to make choices based on it. Fostering creativity helps children to develop mentally, socially and emotionally. And children who feel able to experiment and to make mistakes feel free to invent new ways of thinking, which will extend well beyond the art room.