

October: Every Child is an Artist

Picasso once said, "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." Picasso's birth is in October – a perfect time to introduce children to a unique artist and to experiment with art. Find out about Picasso online and explain to children that he began his exploration with art at a very young age. Then show them some of his works.

You can find Picasso paintings on the web at: pablopicasso.org; google images: Pablo Picasso for preschoolers.

Show Picasso's paintings of his self-portrait and Girl with a Head. Ask children to make their own self portraits.

After you show some of Picasso's paintings, talk about the way in which Picasso' used geometric shapes to create some of his masterpieces. Find the different shapes in his works. Provide children with cut-out shapes and give them time to move them around on a larger piece of paper to make designs. Once they have a finished product they can glue the pieces down to make their own Picasso-like masterpiece. (The Three Musicians)



Encourage them to experiment with mixing colors on their papers. Give them watercolors and paper and invite them to paint their own masterpieces.

Try painting with different tools. Discover the results – do they look like Picasso's? Use legos, old matchbox cars, cotton balls or Q-tips, rubber bands, sponges, eye droppers, etc. to make unique designs with tempera.

Show the painting, The Girl Before the Mirror. (You may want to show just the top half of the painting!) Ask children to imagine what the girl is thinking or seeing when she looks in the mirror. Give the children a mirror or ask them to stand in front of a mirror in your classroom. Describe what they see. Ask other children to describe what they see. Then, draw!

Early Learning Foundations: Infants and Toddlers: Social Emotional: Self Awareness; Language and Literacy: Receptive and Expressive Language, Emergent Writing; Discoveries: Sensory Awareness, Attention and Persistence; Physical Development: Sensory, Fine Motor; Preschool: Social Emotional: Self Awareness; Approaches to Learning: Initiative and Curiosity, Engagement and Persistence; Language and Literacy: Receptive and Expressive Communication, Emergent Reading and Writing; Mathematics: Geometry and Spatial Sense; Creative Expression: Visual Arts; Physical Development and Health: Fine Motor.

Picasso for Kids by Margaret Hyde;

Picasso and the Girl with a Ponytail by Laurence Anholt;

Painting with Picasso by Julie Merberg

Just Behave, Pablo Picasso! by Jonah Winter

Pablo Picasso, Breaking all the Rules by True Kelley