

Artful Stories:

A Preschool Tour Experience at the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Primary Colors

Book

Mouse Paint, written and illustrated by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Materials

- Storybook
- 3 mice
- Color paddles
- Palette color wheel
- Picture frame

Lesson

Content Objectives

- Explore a storybook and artwork in the galleries
- Discover how primary colors become secondary colors through color paddles and palette color wheel

Skill Objectives

What students will do

- Listen to and talk about a storybook
- Make theme connections from the book to works of art
- Manipulate materials related to the tour theme

What students will learn

- Language acquisition and critical thinking
- Visual perception, discrimination and interpretation

Vocabulary

- Primary colors
- Secondary colors
- Color wheel
- Color mixing
- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Green
- Blue
- Purple/violet

Activities

Introduction

Museum Rules

- Looking Eyes (making circles with hands around eyes)
- Listening Ears (have children wiggle ears)
- Quiet Hands (put hands in their lap)
- Inside Voice (put finger to mouth and make “shhhh” sound)

Picture Frame Rhyme

- Can be spoken or sung to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”
- Pass picture frame to each child in turn
- Have them hold up the frame to their face and say/sing the following
- Repeat for each child

*“Looking through my picture frame, who do I see?
I see [INSERT NAME] looking at me!”*

Artful Kids Rhyme

- Can be spoken or sung to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

*It’s story time at Mia
I’m so glad you’re here today
The art is here for everyone
So, let’s get ready to have some fun
We’ll sit down and read a book
And take our time to talk and look*

Gallery

Movement

- Have the students put on their mouse ears while walking through the galleries
- When talking about mixing colors, have them wiggle and shake to imagine paint mixing

Storybook

- Use the mice puppets when reading
- Have them pretend to splash their feet and dance in the paint when the mice are playing in the paint
- Let them guess the new paint colors before turning the page

Looking exercises

- Choose artwork with simple colors and composition and have them name the colors in the artwork
- Have them hold up color paddles in front of themselves while looking at the artwork to make new colors
- For example, hold up color paddles in front of Mondrian’s *Composition with Blue, Red, Yellow, and Black* to see colors change

- You can also have them use their color paddles in front of windows to see the bright colors

Manipulative exercise

- Use the palette board and paint spots as a color wheel to discuss what color is formed by two primary colors
- Have the children help you place the “paint” on the palette in the correct order
- Place the primary colors on the board and have the children figure out what colors should go in between the two primary colors
- Place the secondary colors on the board and have the children figure out what two primary colors should go on either side
- Use the mice puppets to mimic the activity in the book of mixing the paints

Songs and Poems

The Color Mixing Song

To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Red, red, red, and blue, Mix red, red, and blue,
Mix red, red, red, and blue, Get purple for you!

Blue, blue, blue, and yellow, Mix blue, blue, and yellow,
Mix blue, blue, blue, and yellow, Get green, my fellow!

Mix yellow, yellow, yellow, and red, Mix yellow, yellow, and red
Mix yellow, yellow, yellow, and red, Get orange instead!

Paint Poem By Ilo Orleans

When I put yellow paint on red,
The colors change to orange instead.

And mixing blue and red,
I get a pretty shade of violet

Another trick that I have seen
Yellow and blue turn into green

There's magic when my colors mix,
It's fun to watch them doing their tricks

Primary Colors Poem By Ron Brown

Let's mix them up, red, yellow, blue.
Let's mix them up, make colors new.

Let's mix them up, red, yellow, blue.
Primary colors are so cool!

Take a little red and some yellow too,
Mix them altogether and there's orange for you.

Mix a little yellow with a bit of blue,
And soon you'll be seeing green, it's true

Let's mix them up, red, yellow, blue.
Let's mix them up, make colors new.

Take a little red and some blue too,
Mix them altogether and there's purple for you.

Primary colors are the key

Simply amazing as they can be.

Let's mix them up, red, yellow, blue.
Let's mix them up, make colors new.