

Art for All Ages: Connecting with the Museum's K-6 Audience

Introduce yourself!

Museum Rules

- One foot away at all times: "Take a giant step back"
- Food- and beverage-free zone in galleries
- Walk in the hallways
- Stay together as a group (ask chaperone to take up the rear)
- Quiet, "inside" voices
- Respect for other museum visitors
- "Why isn't that (behavior) a good idea?"
- "What *can* we do in the museum?"

Behavior Management

- Verbal intervention (brief, neutral tone)
 - "What is your job right now?"
 - "Is what you're doing helping or hurting?"
 - "Can you fix it?"
- Physical proximity
- What engages children
- Questions about them and their interests
- Using props and visuals (tactile learners)

"Big" Issues/Questions

- Nudity: "If you see something that makes you uncomfortable, look away"
- Violence
- Personal feelings about the art: "You don't have to like it!"
- Religious and cultural connections

Movement

- Traveling through the museum: demonstrating line/movement
- Kinesthetic learners
 - Acting out lines and shapes
 - Acting out the work of art
 - Showing how the figures might move or sound

K-2 Discussion Topics

- Lines, shapes and patterns
- Children in artwork: compare and contrast
- Personal experiences
- Seasonal changes
- Family and neighbors
- Holidays and rituals, community events
- Clothes and environment

Grades 3-5 Discussion Topics

- Changes in nature, cycles of nature (earth, sun, moon, planets)
- Friendship
- Mythical creatures
- Functional and decorative design of everyday objects
- 3-D effects (“fool the eye”)

Grade 6 Discussion Topics

- Cultures of the world
- Surrealism/dreams/fantasy
- Inspiration
- Self and identity
- Influence
- Politics
- Symbols
- Pride
- Sadness
- Happiness
- Justice
- Love
- War
- Courage

Thanks to Melanie Casiday
Mia Youth Programs teacher