

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Art Adventure Guide Brown Bag

Best Practices

Mia



What we've learned...

That what we taught and practiced 10 years ago may not be the best practice in 2018

The challenges of some of the physical spaces within the museum

Building on what children know is better than just repeating what they already know



Impact vs. Intention

Children enjoy their time at Mia



Engaging the Children – engaging ALL of the children

SLOW it down

Simple, easy questions (opinions, not guessing right answer)

- Thumbs up – thumbs down
- Allow some questions to be answered with hands or body posture or pose
- How many think this..., how many think that...
- “I wonder...” and “Imagine...”
- Scale of 1-10
- What’s one thing/word...
- Pair-share
- Allow some questions to be answered with hands or body posture or pose
- Who haven’t I heard from? (variations)
- What was your favorite object on the tour? (Chaperones too)



Build on what they know – substitutes and extras

Compare/contrast

Theme – how does the object reflect the theme

How does the object relate to their life experiences?

“*Why do you think the artist...*”

“*Why do you think _____ would be important to the _____ people?*”



Challenges of the Physical Spaces and Places Within the Museum

Have the children sit (on the floor) whenever possible

Move on! Subs and extras fill the time

Ask the chaperones for their help – before and during the tour

Substitutes for Jade Mountain – Artists' Inspirations



Humility Brings Prosperity gate, 1858

Yu and pine woods, stone, earthenware tiles, pigments, mortar

The entrance to the main courtyard of an urban middle-class family compound

The four-character panel over the doorway reads Humility Brings *Prosperity*

It was originally assembled using only joinery and wooden pins, without any glue or nails

It is dated to 1858 (250 years ago). It has survived because of the dry climate of Shanxi province in Northern China.



Ganesha, 10th-11th century, Javanese

Volcanic stone (andesite)

Ganesha is the elephant-headed son of Shiva and Parvati

He is the destroyer of obstacles and regarded as auspicious. He also is the giver of earthly prosperity and well-being.

- double lotus base
- eats sweetmeats from a bowl in his lower left hand
- lower right hand grasps a broken tusk
- upper right hand holds a rosary topped with a pomegranate, a symbol of abundance
- upper left hand, he displays a battle-axe used to counter evil



Thank YOU!