



Did you know?

ARTS EDUCATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The arts teach us how to make judgments in the absence of rules, and that goals are best held with flexibility.

– Elliot Eisner, as cited by Rena Upitis, Professor of Arts Education at Queen’s University.

AT SCHOOL

Art education empowers children and enables them to confidently deal with life’s challenges. Children develop self-confidence through artistic expression and creativity, and this confidence contributes to academic success and overall wellbeing.

The arts also help students learn. For example, mimicking the life cycle of an animal can help children gain a better understanding of the concept.

The arts stimulate creativity, imagination, and sensitivity, which are forms of intelligence as important as problem solving or the capacity for self-expression (Boudreau and Grenier, 2003). Arts education also awakens students’ senses and helps them develop critical thinking as well as organizational and motor skills.

The arts enable students to:

- improve their analytical skills;
- dream, develop and explore their sense of self;
- meet inspiring artists;
- express their feelings beyond words.

Arts education at the elementary level also enables students to develop:

- fine motor skills (holding tools like a pencil, cutting, tracing, handling small objects)
- spatial skills, the ability to observe objects in their immediate environment and organize them, and a mental picture of an object that is physically absent.

Children employ these skills when playing sports, reading, writing, and doing mathematical calculations.

AT HOME

To foster your child’s interest in the arts, here are some activity suggestions:

- sing songs together
- listen to the music your child likes with him or her
- suggest a subject for a drawing and make it with your child
- make a painting, craft, or a playdough sculpture with your child
- take an interest in your child’s artwork and ask your child to explain it to you
- dance around together
- play charades or make up a story together



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The arts create magical surroundings for children, and contribute to the promotion of First Nations values, languages, and cultures. The arts also serve to transmit Indigenous identity and traditions. Indigenous language learning and cultural continuity are fostered when children engage through cultural interaction.

I’M INVOLVED!

