

Creating Art With Kids

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Using the Elements of Design in the Elementary Classroom

Creative, meaningful art instruction does not require the ability to draw a straight line. It need not rely on art specialists, nor does it require expensive materials or extended periods of classroom time. This book proposes that all teachers can give students real art instruction, and any student can make real art.

This is a book for elementary teachers who believe in the value of instruction in the arts, and who would gladly bring more art activities into their classrooms if they had easy access to a useful, organized set of guidelines that would help them provide that instruction. It's for teachers who think they can't draw a straight line or who think that they don't know anything about art. It's also for teachers who are knowledgeable about art but who lack an organized plan for art instruction and the time to create such a plan.

This book offers authentic art exploration ideas for the elementary classroom that can be implemented and enjoyed with a minimum of preparation, using common materials that are likely to be found in the average classroom. The ideas for exploration are meant to encourage children's natural creativity by focusing on the process of creating rather than the outcome of the work, thus allowing children to determine what the finished products will be.

Teachers looking for step-by-step directions for cute holiday crafts or detailed lesson plans will not find them in this book. Instead, the book presents a sequence of exploratory activities based on a continuum of movement through the basic elements of design: point, line, shape, color, texture, pattern, and space. It includes ideas for integrating art across the curriculum and resources to help students – and teachers – expand their own creative ideas.

These exploratory activities and the supplementary information are meant to give students *and* teachers the opportunity to be creative while learning about the elements of design, while developing an awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of art not only as subject matter and a means of personal expression, but also as an essential and seamless part of our daily lives.

Art is for everyone, anytime!