

**1ST GRADE VISUAL ARTS CURRICULUM**  
**Grade Level Focus**

# **ART TELLS US ABOUT THE WORLD**

*What does art tell us?*

Children in kindergarten and first grade are still in Piaget's Preoperational Stage (2-7 Years). They start to use symbols such as language to represent objects. For instance, the child understands the word "apple" although a real apple is not seen. However, the Preoperational child still learns from concrete evidence while adults can learn in abstract way. The Preoperational child is also unaware of another person's perspective. They exhibit egocentric thought and language.

Children in the preoperational stage are still learning to distinguish fantasy from reality and are highly engaged in fantasy play. They can be observed organizing comprehension of their environment through role-playing.

**Movement**

- \* **Stands on one foot for 10 seconds or longer**
- \* **Hops, somersaults**
- \* **Swings, climbs**
- \* **May be able to skip**

**Hand and Finger Skills**

- \* **Copies triangle and other geometric patterns**
- \* **Draws person with body**
- \* **Prints some letters**
- \* **Dresses and undresses without assistance**
- \* **Uses fork, spoon and (sometimes) a table knife**
- \* **Usually cares for own toilet needs**

**Language**

- \* **Recalls part of a story**
- \* **Speaks sentences of more than five words**
- \* **Uses future tense**
- \* **Tells longer stories**
- \* **Says name and address**

**Cognitive Milestones**

- \* **Can count 10 or more objects**
- \* **Correctly names at least four colors**
- \* **Better understands the concept of time**
- \* **Knows about things used every day in the home (money, food, appliances)**

**Social**

- \* **Wants to please friends**
- \* **Wants to be like her friends**

- \* **More likely to agree to rules**
- \* **Likes to sing, dance and act**
- \* **Shows more independence and may even visit a next-door neighbor by herself**

#### **Emotional Milestones**

- \* **Aware of sexuality**
- \* **Able to distinguish fantasy from reality**
- \* **Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative**

#### **Practices we use in drama activities:**

- o **Learning rules for games**
- o **Assigning roles**
- o **Language and word play**
- o **Listening to stories**
- o **Identifying themselves as learning people**
- o **Observing outside themselves**
- o **Predicting and inferring**
- o **Improving gross motor skills**