

## **Garden Road Art Instruction Program**

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I have designed the art program here at Garden Road to give the children exposure to professional art works and have the conversations those artworks provoke, as well as instruction in drawing and various art techniques, and opportunities for personal expression.

The program has been conceived with several considerations in mind:

1. the developmental readiness of students (by grade level) for concepts and techniques in art,
2. a primary focus is the building of drawing skills because drawing requires keen perception, observation, patience, and problem solving - skills which are necessary to learn to read and write and for every other type of learning. Drawing requires extended attention to detail, and yet, its fun! The ability to patiently observe and focus is important in virtually every profession. It also fosters eye/hand coordination.
3. Our budget allows me to teach a lesson to each child every 2 weeks for 5 years. I use this framework to build skills over the years.
4. In addition to drawing skills, I teach art appreciation and history, design concepts, creative process, color science, and oil pastel in particular. In lesser depth, I teach painting techniques and provide exposure to a wide variety of other mediums and principles.
5. I also consider the California Standards for art, history/social studies, math, and core literature as I design lessons for each grade level. Project ideas from teachers are always welcome.
6. Just like learning the skill of writing, or a sport, or math, or music; students need to learn fundamentals in art. Only then, will they have the tools to express their very creative ideas successfully!

ANYONE CAN LEARN TO DRAW. All it takes is instruction (and an interest); so that's what I try to teach before the child becomes frustrated with trying to learn it without assistance. Do you remember when you decided you couldn't "do art"? Probably at around 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, when you started recognizing that what you drew didn't look real. Without some help at this age, most of us give up. Some people are gifted in drawing and creativity and will become great artists, but all of us can learn to be proficient in drawing and enjoy it. Not everyone becomes a pro baseball player but we love playing the game just the same!