

# Cascadia Art Studio

## NEWSLETTER



December 17, 2018

“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.” - Dilbert Cartoonist, Scott Adams

### Helping Foster Creativity in Children

It's no joke that Albert Einstein said, “Creativity is intelligence having fun,” and, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Children need to know facts and figures, but once the information has been memorized, the real evidence of learning takes place when a child uses the knowledge effectively in a creative way. The arts foster creativity, self-expression, problem solving and the ability to “think outside of the box.”

The ability to think creatively is beneficial to many occupational fields, and some children at Cascadia are already well aware of this; mentioning how it could be useful in science, archeology, and the medical careers. In art we call this the [Studio Habits of Mind](#). This list includes: stretch & explore,

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express, develop craft, envision, engage & persist, understand arts community, observe, and reflect. Learning art techniques is only the beginning! [Studio Habits of Mind](#) are skills and strategies that help you confront the unknown, solve problems creatively, and articulate your decisions clearly. Building strong habits helps you develop an artistic mindset and create sophisticated artwork.

The winter break is coming up, work is coming home, and my hope is to offer you some creative solutions for home since our time in art class is limited. In recent years, video games, television and other electronic media have impacted the amount of time children spend developing their artistic skills, fine motor skills and their imagination. I would like to share with you some tips to have your children "unplug" for a while and do some hands on activities that will not only be beneficial, but fun.

Here are some suggestions for making the arts a part of your child's life.

A. Create a display area for your children's artwork.

It can be as simple as a few magnets to hold your child's newest "masterpiece" on the refrigerator, to hanging a cork board display panel on a wall. By displaying your child's work, you will show them that you value their efforts. I know that my own artistic development was strongly supported by my parents' encouragement and interest in my creative work.

B. Storage Solutions.

A simple solution could be to take digital photos of your child's artwork and store it on the computer or on a digital frame as an art show. Then if you want to, you can discard the piles of artwork. Storing the artwork by year can also be fun! You can then look back at the growth that has happened.

C. Time Management

This is difficult for anyone in our busy era of media overload. If your child watches T.V., you can also encourage them to draw by setting up paper and drawing supplies for them during commercials. Another idea is to bring a sketchpad in the car during vacations.

D. Supplies

If you find yourself running out of art supplies often, in a pinch, you could use old envelopes, scrap paper, the blank part of your paper bags, and other recyclables. Seattle Recreative is a craft store in Greenwood that sells lots of used and reusable supplies. They also have some arts classes for younger children.

E. Suggestions for rainy days: Go to a museum like Frye (totally free!) Henry Art Gallery is free on Sundays for all ages. Olympic Sculpture Park is always free!