

IMPORTANCE OF ART EDUCATION AT ELEMENTARY LEVEL

A teacher entered the class and told the children to take out a sheet of paper. They were told to associate themselves with some inanimate object. Draw and then write few lines about themselves. One such entry was Viraj's



I am Viraj, a jet aeroplane.

I zoom across the class and am always the first to reach my destination.

I do need a lot of food in the break as I need to refuel myself to get lots of energy.

We Realize

1. Art allows the children to develop their **own free expression** of what they are and how they feel.
2. It allows them to learn in a **more creative way than the structured lessons**.
3. There is no fear of being wrong. Here they are actually **allowed to mess around without being frowned upon**.
4. It enhances the level of **self analysis, self esteem**, and also self **discipline**. Such children stay **more motivated** and **cooperate** more readily than the others.
5. It develops **practical aptitude** and **facilitates thinking**.
6. People of all abilities, colour and gender relate to the artwork. **Art is blind to the caste, creed, religion and even the boundaries of states, nations and languages**.
7. Not only does it cultivate **rich taste and appreciation of beauty**, it also directs the inner energies into **creative abilities**.

8. An artist does not have to raise his/her voice; the expression of art form is enough to stir the masses. It is a wonderful tool to **channelize energies into positive expression.**
9. Imagination and vivid expressions (imagery) create opportunities of positive educational encounters **leading to a passion for learning.**
10. Aesthetic experiences of the perspectives of a poet, dancer, visual artist, a musician **engages the attention of the learner** bringing out a **real renaissance in the thinking processes.**
11. Touching on the topics from fractions to geography...concepts of physics to the difficult bio phenomenon, art is a perfect way to get started on a **voyage of discovery**, giving a **practical, tangible experience** of the world around the child, thus enhancing learning.

‘Home sweet home’ was the concept of the day. Children were told to make a home. Most of the children had brought their own material to make a house. Lots of ideas were coming up from hutments to bungalows...to stilt houses with sticks... to igloos with cotton. Two children were busy in the corner of a room.

Beeramani a girl from Jharkhand had collected a lot of dry grass and was busy collecting and weaving to give it a shape of a nest. The other girl Zulka was from Africa, and she was making a paper folding of a small house and there near the house was a little origami dog stuck with a stick

“I hate History”, said my daughter but she loved the Indrajal comics; she loved the historical play on the events of post independence era.



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