

HELPFUL HINTS FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN

1. **Be Flexible!** Assess each group's abilities and interests and conduct your presentation accordingly. It's better to sacrifice a polished presentation for one that's impromptu if the students are going to be more interested and attentive.
2. **Listen** very carefully and thoughtfully to the students. If their answers are incorrect, thank them for the effort and correct them in a gentle, positive way.
3. **Never be afraid of saying, "I don't know; that's a good question."** It shows that art is an ongoing learning process and it make the students feel more comfortable expressing their opinions and questions.
4. **Always** make sure the teacher is in the room during your presentation.
5. When planning your presentation, **always** look at the work of art through the eyes of the age group to whom you will be presenting. What would that age group want to learn and know?
6. **Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no."** Instead, ask questions that require careful looking and thinking to respond.
7. **Avoid lecturing.** Keep it interactive. You can try a variety of activities to reach all types of learners: visual exercises, written sheets, and activities that require physical movement.
8. **Determine your objective for the presentation.** Select one or two main ideas you want to introduce and then structure all your questions and details accordingly.
9. **Keep extraneous details to a minimum.** Only incorporate the details necessary to the objective you are trying to achieve. Extra information can confuse, frustrate, and "turn-off" students to learning.
10. **Remember that the main goal of these presentations is to enthuse the students about art and observation.** You must determine when this goal has been reached. If you've gone through all your material in 10 minutes, then fine! Don't drag on longer solely for the sake of filling time. It should last as long as it lasts.