



**Parent Guide:**

**Tips for a Successful  
Visit to an Art Museum**

Office of Arts and Special Projects  
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## **Speak with your child about art before you visit an art museum. It can be as easy as:**

- **Talking about the artwork in your home and asking**
  - Would you like to know the family history of that quilt? (painting? piece of pottery?)
- **Reading picture books with your child and asking**
  - How are the pictures helping to tell the story?
  - What materials did the illustrator use?
- **Being interested in the artwork your child does at school and asking**
  - Can you tell me about the artwork you are doing in school?
  - Can you bring some of your artwork home?
  - What materials did you use?
  - What decisions did you make in creating it?
- **Walking in the neighborhood and asking**
  - What decorations do you see on the building?
  - Where do you find patterns and textures?
- **Riding on the subway and asking**
  - What artwork can you find at the station platform?
  - What artwork do you see as we walk through the station?
  - Why do you think the artwork was put here?

## When you are in an art museum:

- Let your child decide what he or she would like to look at.
- Look at the artwork first, not the label. Gently guide your child by asking:
  - Why did you stop here?
  - What do you see?
  - Can you tell me more about that?
  - What do you like about this artwork?
  - What questions do you have about it?
- Terms you may wish to use:
  - Line
  - Color
  - Contrast
  - Texture
  - Shape
  - Emphasis
  - Movement
  - Pattern
- Let your child determine when it is time to move on to another artwork.

## Always keep in mind:

- It is more important for your child to look at and talk about the artwork than to be told what he or she is seeing.
- It is better to plan several short trips than to plan an entire morning or afternoon in an art museum.
- The trip should be a positive experience that encourages your child to want to visit the art museum again and again.



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<http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/index2.html>