Elements of Art

LINE

Follow the lines in a work of art. Look for straight lines, curved, thin, and thick. Children will find it fun to trace the lines in a picture with their fingers.

Ask questions to get children to think about the lines in a piece of art.

“Where do you see straight lines in this picture?”

“Do you see any curvy lines in this picture?”

“Where does this line go?”

SHAPE

Point out and name shapes that are found in works of art. Children may find it fun to see a shape in a picture and then look for other examples of that shape in the room.

Ask questions to help children think about the shapes in a piece of art.

“What shapes do you see in this picture?”

“Do you see any rectangles? (repeat as you guide the children to look for squares, circles, ovals, triangles, etc.)”

Art Appreciation 101 for Young Children
COLOR

Look at the colors in a piece of art. Use color names so the children will come to know them. Notice how a color will look different, depending on what color is next to it. Let the children experiment with mixing colors to make new colors.

What questions can you ask children to get them to think about colors in a piece of art?

“What colors do you see first?”

“How do the colors in this picture make you feel?”

TEXTURE

Look at the texture on the surface of a piece of art. You might find smooth and shiny textures, rough, or bumpy. If possible, have the children feel the artwork.

What questions can you ask children about the texture of the art?

“How does this feel when you touch it?”

“What do you think this would feel like?”