

# Children's Art Classes

## A Great Way to Enhance Your Child's Education. Increase Creativity & Higher Level Thinking Skills.

### ART IS IMPORTANT



Jamey Burkhead, 14

Art is the cornerstone of all visual perception. This development is crucial for all other areas in life. Natural creativity is not enough. Children must be given the tools at an early age to enable them to see and interpret their environment. The left (logical, linguistic, and mathematical) and the right (creative) sides of the brain become differentiated at age 10. The left hemisphere tries to dominate the right. Most educational curriculums are left dominant.

If children have been taught to see at an early age, they will not suffer creative frustration at a later age. I can personally vouch for this. As a child, I was talented but it wasn't until high school and college that I had formal art lessons. I persisted as I loved art but it was harder. I give the children the tools they need to be successful. I give them what I wished I had been given as a child.

Art also increases higher level thinking skills: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Through art, these skills carry over to other areas of study, creating a "whole" child. Plus, art is fun! It develops a child's imagination, confidence, self-esteem and the ability to make decisions. It is most satisfying for a child to be able to create on paper the ideas that existed in the mind.

### THE CURRICULUM

I teach drawing and painting. As Montessori has recommended, I follow the child. They retain their own creative ideas. Materials used in my classroom are water soluble oil paints which are less toxic than standard oils, pastels, acrylic paints, watercolor paints and pencils, inks, color pencils. We draw, illustrate, paint, make prints, collage, cartoon, utilize accordion books and do paper casting for the holidays. Art vocabulary and visual concepts are taught to enrich a child's knowledge and ability to evaluate and discuss art. Multicultural, figurative, traditional and abstract approaches are used. I have arranged art exhibits for my students for the last 12 years including the Kimo Gallery, Explora, the South Broadway Cultural Center and the airport. Many students have graced the cover of *NM Kids Magazine*.

### COST AND PLACE

My rate is \$48 per month for 4 weekly classes that are 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Months with 5 classes are \$60, and 3 classes are \$36 per month. Commitment is from September to May. Payment is given the first week of the new month. Missed classes are still paid for as in any other school. If I get sick, I credit your account. A yearly materials fee of \$35 is used for shared materials. Lessons are in a dedicated room in our home. Students are responsible for purchasing two 16"x20" canvases on stretcher bars and a spiral bound sketch pad. Maximum number of students per class is 6.

### TEACHING METHOD

I respect children as unique individuals who learn at different rates. I teach children the safe use of materials, help train their eyes to see and their hands to draw what they see. I encourage their own intuitive process so they may express their creative core and ideas. I use art history to show them the wealth and styles of creativity through the ages and how the collective consciousness of artists contain echoes of all ages. *Most importantly, I allow them the freedom to explore their creativity without fear or judgment.* I use many methods of art instruction depending upon the child's age, interests, and sensitive periods. I emphasize drawing as that is the basis of all other art. I have had 5 students enter art college. My job is to shed light, *not* master the child.

### CHILDREN AND PARENTS

*"Veronica's classes are so much fun! My child gets lots of individual attention and guidance in a wide variety of art forms."* SanRa Alworth, parent

*"Veronica has a way with children. She really makes every child feel special. She puts a lot of care and planning into her lessons. She helps kids understand art and is encouraging."* Carola Naquin, parent

*"Art is my favorite class of the week."* Gina Ferraro, student

*"She makes me feel like an artist. She lets you know it is ok to be scared about color and offers helpful advice when using color."* Julia Naquin, student

Veronica Piastuch

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*"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he or she grows up."* PABLO PICASSO

*"Do not fear mistakes. There are none."* MILES DAVIS

*"The hand is the instrument of the mind."*

MARIA MONTESSORI



Caitlin Velazquez Fagley, 15

### SEE STUDENT ART

[www.vivagarcia.com](http://www.vivagarcia.com)

### MY CREDENTIALS

B.A. with major in Art, Magna Cum Laude, City College, NYC January 1975. Audited Montessori primary classes with 4 weeks of elementary training. Published illustrator and commissioned painter. Since 1995 taught home school students, Montessori preschool and elementary and private art classes. Summer art camps 1994-2000. Montessori art teacher 1993-95. Worked as a NYC graphic artist for 25 years including owning and operating my own firm *Graphic Heart*. Formed private art school in 1995. Five feature stories in the Albuquerque Journal. 1999-Community Outreach Art Program Coordinator for South Broadway Cultural Center. Produce student and adult art exhibits in New Mexico.