

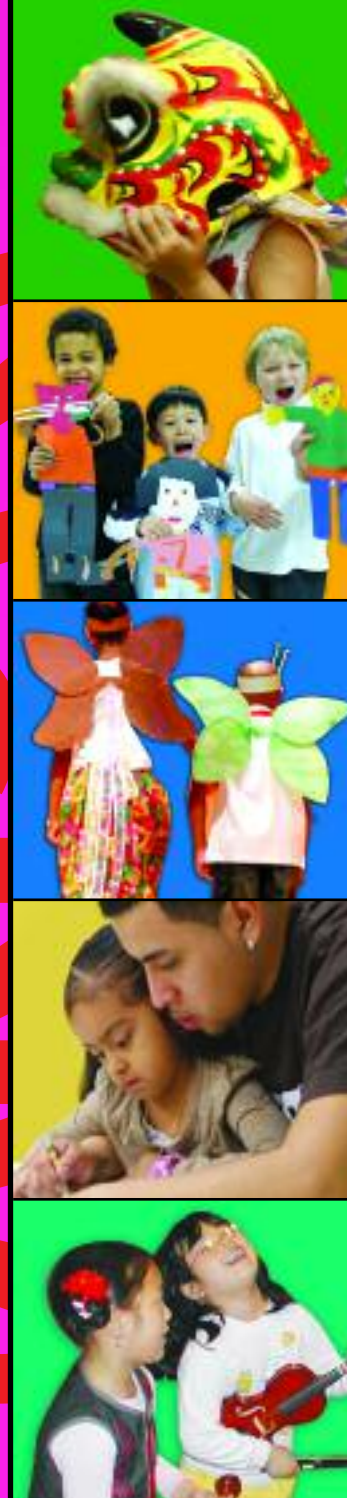
My Child, the Arts and Learning

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS, PRE-K TO SECOND GRADE



THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION
www.cae-nyc.org
1-877-434-ARTS

MetLife Foundation



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**PULL-OUT POSTER
TO MAKE WITH MY CHILD**



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"I made my drummer girl because I saw a girl
drumming in the park. When I made this picture
I was happy because I was making art."

—SYDNEY, FIRST GRADE, BROOKLYN



"Art has an impact on children
that lasts a lifetime."

— JACQUELYNNE MODESTE,
PARENT, MANHATTAN



How do the arts fit into my child's education?

MY CHILD LEARNS

BY...

Dancing • *Singing* • **PLAYING** • *Acting*

Drawing • **PRETENDING** • **PAINTING**

Sculpting • *creating* • **TELLING STORIES**

Making music • *Imagining!*

CHILDREN'S PASSION FOR LEARNING IS DEEPENED

WHEN...

- Their classroom celebrates play and the imagination
- Their art is displayed at school and at home
- They are invited to ask questions and invent solutions
- They make art with friends, and make friends through art
- They take classes in music, dance, art and theater
- They celebrate the arts with the whole school community
- They learn with the whole self—mind, body, heart and imagination.



How does my child benefit from the arts?



THROUGH THE ARTS...

My child discovers

- there is often more than one right answer.
- there are multiple points of view.
- school can be fun—playing can be learning.

My child practices

- problem-solving skills.
- critical-thinking skills.
- dance, music, theater and art-making skills.
- the language and vocabulary of the arts.

My child learns

- to express feelings, with and without words.
- to observe and describe, analyze and interpret.
- to think creatively, with an open mind.
- to collaborate with other children and with adults.

“...The gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing knowledge.”

—ALBERT EINSTEIN,
NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING PHYSICIST



The arts support learning across the curriculum

A classroom that celebrates the arts is a safe and joyful learning environment. When teachers combine the arts with other subjects, they create exciting and vivid learning experiences, which enhance learning across many subject areas.

For example:

- Acting out a favorite story, describing a painting or performing a puppet show can support reading and writing skills.
- Noticing musical patterns and rhythms can support learning in math.
- Observing and describing are important skills for both science and art.

“The arts give us the opportunity to educate the whole child...to allow every child a chance to raise his or her self esteem and become a life-long lover of the arts.”

DIANNE GOUNARDES, TEACHER, BROOKLYN

The arts introduce children to cultures from around the world

Children learn about their own culture of origin, and about the arts of past and present cultures. The arts help to preserve and celebrate the cultures of many nations.

The arts bridge differences

All children can blossom and excel in the arts. Children with physical, emotional or learning challenges can experience success in the arts.

"A child with a physical disability performed in the school's dance troupe. She had told her mother that she was going to dance on stage, but her mom didn't believe her... She danced—she smiled—in her wheelchair."

RONNIE MALANDRAKIS,
PARENT COORDINATOR, QUEENS

The arts build confidence

Because there is not just one right way to make art, every child can feel pride in his or her original artistic creations.

"Children who may be failing academically can find success in the arts."

—ESTHER SHRAGA, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, ART & MUSIC, BRONX



The arts build community

Strong communities need great schools and great schools have strong arts programs. The arts can bring a whole school together. A school with a wide variety of differences can celebrate the arts as one community!



IT'S THE LAW THE ARTS FOR EVERY CHILD!

Every public school child in NYC is legally entitled to receive arts education in school. The arts are recognized as part of quality education for children. This is why New York City and New York State have learning standards in the arts.

- Every New York City public school receives money for the arts from the New York City Department of Education*. The arts are for every child!.

- New York City's learning standards in the arts are published in the Department of Education's Blueprint for the Arts, with learning goals in music, theater, dance and visual art, for grades K-12.

- New York State defines arts learning standards in the statewide curriculum for grades K-12.

- The federal No Child Left Behind Act lists the arts as a "core academic subject" area, along with math, reading, science, and other subjects.

**Letter from the Chancellor of NYC schools, Feb 28, 2007*

What should I look for in my child's school?

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Is children's art on the walls?
- What arts programs and instruction does the school offer?
- Are there full-time arts teachers—in music, visual art, dance, theater?
- Does every grade receive arts instruction?
- What space is available for music, visual art, theater and dance instruction? If classrooms are not available, can the auditorium, cafeteria, gym or other space be used?
- Does the school have partnerships with arts organizations?
- Do the kids perform?
- Are there field trips to concerts and museums?
- Are the arts included in the school's budget?
- Is there a school arts committee?
- If I have questions about the arts in my child's school, who is the best person to ask?

Parent participation in school is welcome and expected.

Teachers and principals want to hear from you! It is important for you as a parent to ask questions and share your ideas.

Some people you can talk to in school include:

Principal, Assistant Principal, Parent Coordinator, your child's teacher, the arts teachers, PTA (Parent Teacher Association) members, SLT (School Leadership Team) members.



"My best time is music with my music teacher, Mrs. Miller. She plays so many different kinds of music. It is fun and beautiful. I love to do the conga and the hat dance. I like listening to Mozart because it makes me feel happy and excited."

JAELYN, KINDERGARTEN, QUEENS



How can I support the arts at school?

PARENTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Offer to hang kids' artwork in the classroom or hallways.
- Ask questions about the school arts programs at Curriculum Night, Back to School Night, or Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- Find out how to start or join an arts committee.
- Talk about this publication with other parents.
- Offer to bring your artistic skills into the classroom.
- Share the dances, music or stories from your own culture with students.
- Help to organize a family arts celebration.
- Volunteer at an arts event—help with food, transportation or set-up.
- Ask a school or parent leader to talk about school arts programs at the next PTA meeting.
- Talk to other parents about the arts in school.

Get Involved!



"If we don't give our children exposure to the arts, this city doesn't have a future."

— NEW YORK CITY MAYOR
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG

WHAT DO OTHER PARENTS THINK?*

The majority of American parents believe that arts education is central to a top-quality education. Most Americans want more arts education in the schools. They believe that:

- Arts education is necessary to educate the whole child.
- Arts education helps grow strong communities, schools and students.
- Everyone in the community benefits when public schools succeed, and schools can't succeed without arts education.
- Arts education is disappearing from many classrooms across the country. Parents and teachers believe that standardized testing is crowding out creativity, making teachers and students unhappy and uninspired.
- The arts are the best way for schools to help students develop their creativity and express themselves.
- Reading, math and science are high priority for schools. By integrating the arts, schools will see big improvements in these areas!

**Ford Foundation study, "Mobilizing Parents for Integrated Arts Education."*

How can I support the arts at home?

Make the arts part of your every day family life.

You probably do some of this already:



Celebrate your child's artwork

Talk to your kids about their artwork. Hang it on the wall or save it in a folder. Ask them questions about their dance, music, visual art and theater creations.

Read Books

Read picture books with your child. Ask the librarian at your school or public library to suggest books about artists and the arts.

Notice the Arts All Around You

Take your family to art in public spaces—parks and subway stations. Listen to all sorts of music, at home, on the street, all around the city. Ask your child what he notices. Encourage her to ask questions about music, art, dance and theater. You don't need to have all the answers. Start a conversation about what you noticed together.

Use Resources

Keep The Center for Arts Education website, www.cae-nyc.org, handy to research family arts opportunities.

"I just took my sons, ages three and six, to the Brooklyn Museum. The sculptures captivated them. They asked questions about anatomy, life and death, birth. It was amazing. Arts in education stimulate children to engage in really deep conversations about all sorts of things."

—LESLEY LEANESS, PARENT, BROOKLYN



Dance · Sing · **PLAY** · Act

Draw · PRETEND · PAINT

Sculpt · create · TELL STORIES

Make music · Imagine!

Enjoy the arts at home!

Tell your child how much the arts mean to you.
Teach your kids the dances and music and stories
from your own cultural heritage. Share your
artistic skills and interests with your family.
Find out what your kids love about the arts.

Have fun! Make art together!



Visit the Center for Arts Education website, for ideas and resources to support your child's learning in the arts, at school and at home. There you will find:

- ✓ **This Parent Guide, translated into multiple languages**, which you can download and print or email from the website.
- ✓ **Links to free and low cost family arts events, arts resources for schools, and Arts programming for children with disabilities, including:**
 - **Family Guide to the Arts in NYC**
 - **NYCKidsArts**, *New York City's Cultural Guide for Kids*, with up-to-date listings of arts events for kids in all five boroughs.
 - **NYC Parks Foundation**, which presents hundreds of free family arts programs across the city each year.
 - **Foundation Center Library**, a Manhattan library open to the public, which provides resources on how to apply for grants, as well as free fundraising workshops.
- **Materials for the Arts**, a not-for-profit cultural organization that donates free arts materials to schools from its warehouse in Long Island City, Queens.
- **VSA Arts**, offering numerous arts resources and programs for children with disabilities.
- ✓ **Family Arts Projects to do at home**
- ✓ **Parents As Arts Partners (PAAP)** section, which has information about:
 - CAE's grants for New York City public schools
 - New York State Learning Standards in the Arts
 - New York City's Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts
 - Steps for finding a cultural partner for your school
- ✓ **Information on other arts grants, classroom best practices, news about the arts in NYC schools, publications for parents, and much more.**

TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Arts-in-Education: the field of arts education in the schools, including: arts classes during the school day and out of school time; partnerships between cultural organizations and schools; visiting artists; artist residencies; in-school performances by performing artists; arts workshops for educators; field trips to museums and performing arts events; school-wide arts celebrations.

Cultural Partners: cultural organizations which partner with schools to provide arts education services.

CEP: Comprehensive Educational Plan. The annual statement of educational philosophy and approach prepared by every NYC public school for the DOE.

DOE: Department of Education. Governing body of NYC public school system.

Office of Family Engagement: Office within the DOE created to engage public school parents and families, enhance communication with parents, and represent parent views in decision-making at the highest levels of the DOE.

PAAP: Parents as Arts Partners. A program of CAE. Funds up to 150 school-based family arts events every year. Open to every NYC public school.

Parent Coordinator: Paid staff position in some NYC public schools; coordinates parent activities and responds to parent concerns.

PA and PTA: Parent Association and Parent Teacher Association. Parent leadership groups open to all parents and required in every city public school. Good places for parents to find out what's happening in their school.

SLT: School Leadership Team. Public school decision-making team, made up of principals, teachers and parents. Makes decisions on school priorities, how the budget is spent, and evaluates a school's progress.

TA: Teaching Artist. Professional artist and educator, often working through a cultural organization, that teaches students and teachers in schools and other settings.

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Children's drawings courtesy of PS 200, Brooklyn, 2006



THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

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The Center for Arts Education (CAE) is a not-for-profit organization committed to restoring, stimulating, and sustaining quality arts education as an essential part of every child's education. We create, identify, fund, and support exemplary partnerships and programs that demonstrate how the arts contribute to learning and student achievement. CAE is dedicated to influencing educational and fiscal policies that will support arts education in all of the City's public schools. Since its founding in 1996, CAE has awarded nearly \$40 million in private and public funding to support arts education partnerships and programs.

This Parent Guide is sponsored by the MetLife Foundation



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আপনার পেরেন্ট কোঅর্ডিনেটরের কাছে বাংলায় লেখা এই নির্দেশাবলী (গাইড) আছে।
您的家長專員有本指南的中文版本。

Your Parent Coordinator has this Guide in English.

Koòdinatè paran w la gen Gid sa a an kreyòl ayisyen.

학부모 코디네이터는 본 지침서의 한글 번역본을 보유하고 있습니다.

Вы можете получить экземпляр этого справочника на русском языке у координатора по работе с родителями школы, где учится Ваш ребёнок.

Su Coordinador de padres tiene esta guía en español.

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