



Steps and Tips

10 Steps to a Successful Lesson and Tips to Make it Easy

1. *Arrange a set time/date with your classroom teacher that is consistent every month.* Plan to teach at least once a month. If there are multiple Art Start volunteers, coordinate a teaching schedule by alternating teaching or working together.
2. *Choose a lesson plan appropriate for your grade level.* There are multiple ways to choose a lesson plan. The McAuliffeart.org [website](#) is a first source of ideas. There are many other art sites online. Check out [References](#) on mcauliffeart.org. Art lessons found for older or younger grades can be adjusted so they are appropriate for your grade. This can be accomplished through a change in medium or what is prepped for students ahead of time.
3. *Create an outline of the lesson plan.* Utilize the Lesson Planner template to easily define a lesson plan, and list materials needed. Teach the lesson based on one of the seven elements of art (color, line, rhythm, unity, movement, emphasis, contrast, balance). Check out the [Lessons](#) link on McAuliffeArt.org for information on Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Reference a master artist or movement. Consider a variety of art mediums, such as chalk, oil pastel, painting, printmaking, etc. Reserve the kiln for clay and glass projects.
4. *Gather the materials from the Art Start room, production room or clay corner prior to the lesson.* Volunteers are welcome to use any of the supplies in these supply rooms. If you need a specific supply not found in the supply rooms, inform the supply manager, [Mandy Brunner](#). Reserve the materials a day in advance by setting up a cart with the materials, and filling out the reservation form on the cart with your teacher name, lesson date and time, and art lead contact information. Return the cart to the Art Start room after the lesson. Carts tend to be in high demand. If you would like to reserve materials earlier than a day in advance, please utilize a Reservation Bin located in the Art Room.
5. *Practice the lesson.* Make a sample of the project and practice teaching the lesson. Siblings are great test subjects.



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6. *Teach the lesson.* Share information about the artists' life, history, works, or mediums used. Ask questions that will engage the students. Explain the steps in creating the project before the student begins. Display the end result achieved in the practice lesson so students can visualize the goal. Distribute materials as needed to avoid run away projects. Use art team assistants to keep the class on task and moving forward. Have the teacher identify a "when finished" activity upfront for those who finish their art project quickly.
7. *Clean up the classroom.* This is a great opportunity to enlist the help of students and teach them to be responsible with art materials.
8. *Put materials away in the supply rooms.* Help keep the art start room, clay corner and production room neat and take care of art materials. Paintbrushes must be soaked, cleaned and stored with the bristles upright to dry. Close marker and glue caps tightly to avoid waste.
9. *Display the student's artwork on assigned hallway bulletin boards.* Display student's artwork for the month and rotate new projects onto the board. Students love to see their art and the work of other classes.
10. *Take photos of student's artwork to share lesson plans on mcauliffeart.org.* Upload photos along with the lesson plan. Only post pictures of children's hands on the website for privacy reasons.

Enjoy sharing art!