



Gagan Bagga
Art teacher, Army School,
Ahmednagar

Art is something more than painting or drawing. It is a way of thinking, a way of seeing, a way of living. Art means arrangement and selection. Arrangement and selection mean design. Design means order which is more to be used and enjoyed, something to be lived. More precisely it is an essence of appreciation it is a question of right feeling and right values. It is an awareness and appreciation of things of beauty.

Education has been defined as an experience, rather reconstruction of experience or more precisely continuous reconstruction of experience in the light of new experiences. Art is a continuous experience which we get from life itself. Art in fact, pervades every sphere of our life. Without architectural design our cities would be reduced to log cabins.

No general educational programme is complete without a sound art activity, as it is one of the most important liberating factors unfolding the personality of the child keeping him towards better growth, intellectual, emotional and social.

A drawing made by a child is the result of his movement which is guided by the feeling and thinking of a child. The scribbles that a child makes in child's movements coordinated with his thinking and feeling which spring from his experience.

There are definite stages in a child's development:

Manipulative Stage : 2 – 3 years

Usually the child tells a story with scribbles. For example, he may say, "This is a flower, or a car," although neither a flower nor a car may sometimes be recognisable.

Experimental Stage : 4 - 5 years

In this stage his muscles become more obedient to his thinking. At this stage the child is able to balance and organize line and colour and attempt to draw human faces, especially of the immediate family

Clay modeling activities are important and satisfying to small children.

Schematic Stage : 6 - 8 years

At this stage children develop a particular formula or symbol that is temporarily satisfying for representing the human figure as well as other objects. Circular, triangular or rectangular shapes may be used for heads, bodies, hands, feet or features, curved and straight lines used singly or doubly may be used to represent arms and legs. At the beginning of six to eight year period the sky is usually indicated by a blue stripe at the top of the page, and slowly they do full colour in sky.

Some craft, such as cutting out printed patterns, making cards is also popular.

From nine to twelve stage :



Children become more bold and spontaneous. More drawings like depicting other children is attempted.

From twelve to fifteen stage :

Children are now mature and like to work independently in groups, experimenting with different materials.



1. Children love to work in groups. In Art we can experiment with colours and other material. Children who lack assurance can paint backgrounds and minor objects, while the complex and important forms will be executed by the children with more ability. In groups children use many different ideas and creativity.
2. Proceeding from simple to complex themes makes children more confident. .
3. Coloured films and slides on art subjects and process are both motivating and informative.
4. Playing music in class creates an atmosphere of creativity.
5. Seeing an artist's can be inspiring.
6. If a student is good in particular skill, the teacher should allow him to develop and display it.
7. There should be choice in medium as well as in the choice of subject matter. For example : a student who does not enjoy painting may be happily using clay.

From My Own Experience

