

DEEP SPACE SPARKLE

inspiring children one color at a time

A FREE
handout
FOR YOU!



PORTRAIT MAKING

THE SCOPING & SEQUENCING OF

Portrait Making

KINDERGARTEN

What they can do:

- Trace oval templates to help establish a larger face in which to draw facial features
- With the help of eye placement dots, draw a "rainbow" and a "smile" to create an eye
- Identify their basic identifying features: hair color, eye color, long hair/short hair
- Draw an upside down #7 for the nose

What supplies I use:

- Oil pastel or crayons
- Liquid or cake tempera paint with chalk pastel details
- Collage materials: yarn for hair, colored paper for facial features
- Black oil pastel or crayon for outlining (helps clean up the drawing)



Perfect projects for this age group:

- [Kindergarten Collage Portraits](#) (Fun with Portraits Product)
- [Kinder Royal Portraits](#) (blog post)
- [Chalk & Paint Portraits](#) (blog post)

Portrait Tips:

- What to expect when [Kinders create portraits blog post](#)
- Don't expect 5-year old children to draw their exact likeness or follow any formula for drawing a self-portrait. Consider yourself lucky if a few kids draw an oval big enough to draw features!

THE SCOPING & SEQUENCING OF

Portrait Making

FIRST GRADE

What they can do:

- Draw a letter "U" to establish the right size for the head
- Use a hat template to help establish the size of the head
- Simple representation of eyes, nose, mouth, hair
- More detail shown in the hair and clothing

What supplies I use:

- Tempera paint on sulphite drawing paper
- Oil pastels
- Chalk pastels for gentle hi-lighting and color enhancements
- Craft embellishments to engage the imagination (glitter, glitter glue, yarn, buttons, sequins)



Perfect projects for this age group:

- [Do You have a Hat? Portrait Project](#)
- [Chalk pastel portraits](#)
- [Tempera Paint Portraits](#)
- [Oil Pastel Matisse-Style Portraits](#)

Portrait Tips:

- Build upon the child's interest in drawing by expanding a portrait lesson into drawing the whole body or engage a child's imagination by incorporating other drawing details.

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SECOND GRADE

What they can do:

- Facial proportions aided by a "live" demonstration with the kids
- Start drawing with letter "U"
- Identify that ears are on the side of the head not near the top
- Draw portraits of other people (famous)

What supplies I use:

- Oil pastels
- Tempera paint
- Watercolor paint on watercolor paper
- Sharpie markers for outlining

Perfect projects for this age group:

- Abe Lincoln Portraits
- Same projects as for first grade
- Start to take a break from portrait-making with this age group in lieu of full body art work like Snow Angels



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THIRD GRADE

What they can do:

- Start using paint and color to add personal expression to artwork
- Use paper to focus on facial shapes rather than lines
- Learn how to draw proper hair
- Start introducing mirrors for self-portraits
- Learn how to draw hair that extends beyond their scalp
- Introduce concept of $\frac{3}{4}$ view profile

What supplies I use:

- Colored paper
- Tempera paint
- Watercolor paint
- Oil Pastel
- Sharpies
- Pencils

Perfect projects for this age group:

- Paper Cut Portraits
- Van Gogh $\frac{3}{4}$ view portraits (product)
- Abstract portraits like Picasso Face portrait (post)
- Expressive paintings in the style of Fred Babb
- Black & White portraits (product)



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FOURTH GRADE

What they can do:

- Use observation techniques (mirrors) effectively
- Introduce whimsy or fantasy to engage students
- Introduce finer details of portrait making: how to draw eyes with lids, lips, noses, etc.
- Paint hair that has texture and body
- Head shaping

What supplies I use:

- Pencils and markers (draw with pencil and trace with black marker)
- Watercolor paints
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Watercolor pencils would be good at this age (although I haven't used them)

Perfect projects for this age group:

- Gunslingers & Outlaws (post & product)
- Father's Day Portraits (post)
- Kings & Queens (post & product)
- Paper Cut Portraits (post & product)



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FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE

What they can do:

- Create more realistic portraits by slowing down and taking each step one at a time.
- Try tracing school pictures as a way to capture likeness and introduce new technique
- Features begin to look like the student
- Start to tire of self-portraits and become hyper-aware of drawing their likeness. Draw famous people or friends instead.
- Many can draw realistically with pencil using shading technique but some will struggle



What supplies I use:

- Pencils and markers
- Colored markers and colored pencils used together
- Tempera paint for expressive paintings

Perfect projects for this age group:

- Expressive Self-Portraits
- Frida Portrait
- Matisse Inspired Portraits (product)
- Rouault Inspired Royalty Portraits



Inspiring children one color at a time

Navigate the World of Kid's Art Through Stories, Tips and Practical How-to's!

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