

Art, Music, and Drama: First Grade

Engaging in the arts will help your child:

- Become more creative and expressive
- Develop vocabulary by talking about music and art
- Enjoy a variety of creative activities, such as storytelling a puppetry



Ideas to try with your child:

- Provide a variety of arts and crafts materials for your child to explore: beads, buttons, pipe cleaners, chalk, crayons, watercolors, markers, pencils, clay, and many different types of paper.
- Dance with your child to a variety of music and clap to the beat!
- Make puppets from paper bags or old socks and use them to retell stories or make up new stories.

If your child is struggling:

- Read nursery rhymes with your child. Nursery rhymes are simple and repetitive, so they are easy to children to remember. Let your child act out the rhyme.
- Listen to audio CDs and follow the directions to the songs. Look for *Kids In Motion* by Greg and Steve or *Bean Bag Activities and Coordination Skills* by Georgiana Stewart in your local library.

Going further:

- Take your child to plays, musical performances, or art exhibits in your community. Look for them at your local library, high schools or colleges.
- Talk with your child about their ideas and feelings after watching or participating in a performance.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children in First Grade** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Create and respond to the arts." Learning About My World, First Grade, pg. 104