

# ART EXPLORATIONS

## Dear Families,

When you visit a museum with your young child, you are helping them to develop skills and memories that will last a lifetime.

These Art Explorations are designed to help your family get ready to visit and enjoy any museum you choose.



## Here are some tips for using the cards:

- **Prepare your child for the museum visit.** When your child knows what to expect, they will feel more comfortable in an unfamiliar place.
- **Why draw?** The sketching activities are for your family to experience the museum together. You don't have to be an artist. Show your child that you are trying something new and he/she will be excited to do the same!
- **Pick and choose.** Pick just one or two activity cards to try each time.
- **Keep it short in the museum.** Just spend an hour or two looking at what excites your family the most. You can always explore more the next time you visit.

We hope you enjoy using your Cool Culture Family Pass and Art Explorations before, during and after your museum visits!

# Our Family Museum

## Before Your Visit

Museums collect, care for and display objects that are really special and tell a story.

Before your visit, **create a museum at home that represents your family**. With your child, choose a few objects or photos that are special to each family member. Arrange the objects into a display on a table.



### Talk Together:

Share why these objects are special to your family.

Point out any details that might interest your child, like colors or animals.

### Why?

Your child will be excited to explore museums if you can connect it to things they know. Just like your family has objects that are important to you, museums collect and display important objects from art, science and history.

# Museum Manners Part I

## Before Your Visit

**Many children know that special places**, such as the library, preschool, church or temple, require special behavior.

In museums, we behave in a certain way to help the museum keep the artwork and exhibits safe for others to enjoy.



**Sing a song** to prepare your child(ren) for how to behave in a museum. (Turn card over for song lyrics).

### Talk Together:

“How can we help the museum keep the artwork safe?”

“Why shouldn’t we run, shout or touch in the museum?”

### Why?

Children learn best when they know what to expect. Singing a song about museum behavior is a fun, warm and memorable way to introduce expectations.

# Museum Manners Part II

## Before Your Visit

### To the tune of “Frère Jacques/Are you Sleeping?” and “Where is Thumbkiñ?”

In the museum, in the museum,  
We don’t touch, we don’t touch.  
We use our eyes, we use our eyes.  
We don’t touch, we don’t touch.



In the museum, in the museum,  
We don’t run, we don’t run.  
We will walk together, we will walk together.  
We don’t run, we don’t run.



In the museum, in the museum,  
We don’t shout, we don’t shout.  
We use inside voices, we use inside voices.  
We don’t shout, we don’t shout.



In the museum, in the museum,  
We have fun, we have fun.  
We will be creative, we will be creative.  
We have fun, we have fun.

### **Talk Together:**

“What *can* we do in a museum?”

“We can look at special objects from around the world,  
tell stories, draw and play games!”

**ART EXPLORATIONS****Zoom In! Part I****Before Your Visit**

**Make an “Art Telescope”** to excite and focus the attention of your young Cool Culture explorer!

**Have your child decorate a cardboard roll** with markers, crayons, or stickers.

If your child needs assistance, you can hold the roll while he or she decorates it.

**Talk Together:**

“Look closely! What do you see with your “Art Telescope”?”

**Why?**

Using a viewfinder is a fun way to build your child’s observation skills, which are vital to success in science, math, and literacy. Bring your “Art Telescope” with you on museum trips!

**ART EXPLORATIONS**

**Zoom In! Part II**

**During Your Visit**

**Using your “Art Telescope”**, find a work of art in a quiet gallery or exhibit that interests your child(ren).



Sit in front of your family’s favorite work of art, look at the details and **draw what you see on the next page.**

**Talk Together:**

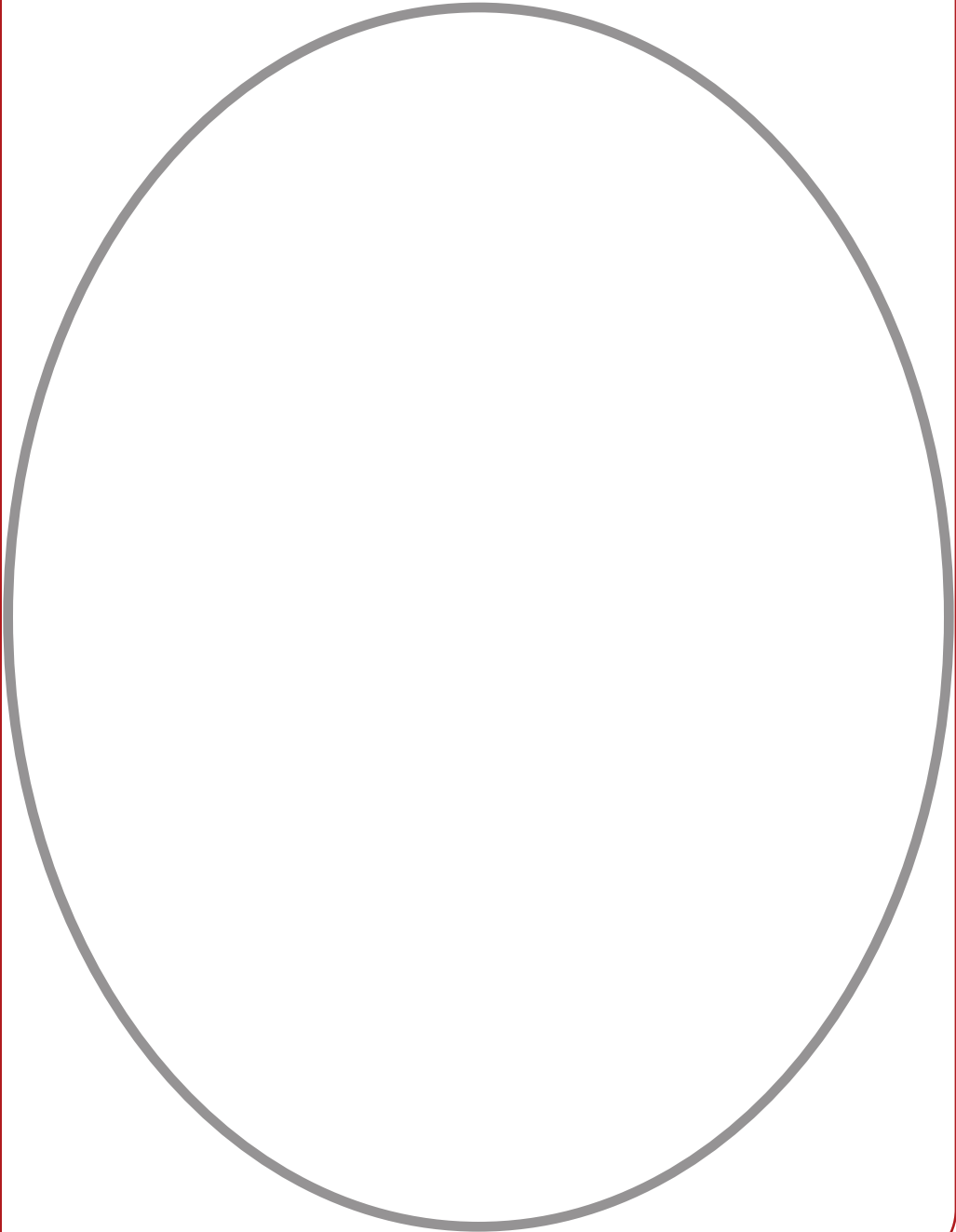
“What do you see?” “What’s going on here?”

“What do you see that makes you say that?”

**Why?**

Just as your child naturally moved from babbling to speaking, he or she will move from scribbling to drawing representational pictures. In the meantime, showing interest in their scribbles encourages your child to develop as an artist, and eventually, a writer.

Using his or her “Art Telescope”, encourage your child to draw what they see.



**ART EXPLORATIONS****Strike A Pose****During Your Visit**

**Find** a painting or sculpture that shows people or animals.

**Take turns** as a family acting out what you see the people or animals doing.



**Have other family members guess** which character or artwork you are acting out.

**Talk Together**

While your child poses, ask:

“What are you doing?”

“What do you see?” “Smell?” “Hear?”

**Why?**

Young children use their bodies to experience the world. Acting it out first, and then talking about it, encourages children to find even more language to describe their experience.



# Family Memories

## After Your Visit

**After your museum visit**, use travel time, meal time or bedtime to tell and retell the story of your visit.

If you took pictures, look at them together. Share them again with your child(ren) in a few days.



### Talk Together:

"Remember when we went to the museum?"

"How did we get there?"

"What was your favorite part of the visit?"

"What did we do after visiting the museum?"

### Why?

Talking about past experiences helps children develop vocabulary, and learn to sequence events in the order they occurred, an important part of literacy.

## **OUR MISSION**

Cool Culture ensures that New York's most diverse families with preschool-aged children have access to arts and culture as a way to increase literacy and learning in early childhood and to prepare children to succeed in school.



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