

Lesson #27: Museum Day

Objectives: To discover the concept of positive and negative space and use it to create interesting body shapes and interrelationships. To work as a group to create an image through body sculpting techniques. To explore body shapes, physical contact and trust.

Materials Needed: Scarves (1 per child)
Paintbrushes (1 per child)
Sponges (1 per child)
Stuffed animals (1 per child)

Class Outline:

A. Warm-ups* (See Appendix 1)

B. Activities

1. ***Information Station.*** Teacher says, “Today we will visit a museum. What do you find?” Discuss aspects of statues. Teacher demonstrates different statue poses while children slowly walk around and examine the ‘statue.’ Repeat, giving children different positional ideas.
2. ***Dancing Statues.*** Play music while children dance. When music stops, children freeze in whatever pose they are in. Repeat. After children master individual statues, form a statue with partner and freeze when music stops.
3. ***Positive and Negative Space.**** (See Appendix 2 for photos) Explain that body mass is ‘positive’ space, and empty space that the body encloses is ‘negative’ space or ‘holes.’ For example, the positive space in a donut is the actual donut; the negative space is the hole. Children strike a pose that will produce as many negative spaces, or holes, as possible. Freeze. While holding positions, point out negative space (holes) that can be found in each child’s statue. Explore this activity on high, middle and low levels.
4. ***Scarf Sculptures.*** Each child makes statues using a scarf.
5. ***Group Sponge Sculpture.*** One at a time, children place sponges on floor to make a sculpture. Sponge can be tall, flat, or on its side. When sculpture is complete, children tell what they think it looks like.
6. ***Symmetrical and Asymmetrical.*** Introduce concepts of symmetry: draw an imaginary line down center of body, both sides are exactly the same, and asymmetry: the same imaginary line produces two different sides. Children form several different symmetrical shapes with body. Then form asymmetrical shapes.
7. ***Partner Sculpting.*** Pair children. One is ‘Sculptor,’ and the other is ‘Clay.’ Clay is relaxed and moves in any way Sculptor places them. Clay freezes and holds that position until moved again by Sculptor. Trade places and repeat.
8. ***Group Sculpture.*** As music plays, children dance. When music stops, children attach themselves to each other, forming one large group sculpture. Repeat activity.
9. ***Paint Your Own Masterpiece!*** Give each child a paintbrush. Stand by wall and pretend to paint a picture. One by one, they tell the class what they painted.
10. ***Animal Sculptures.*** Children place animals in center of room forming an animal sculpture. Then children copy the animal statue by making an identical human statue with their own bodies.