

Stages of Children's Art Development: Check your Misconceptions

Complete this handout as a group and go over together with your instructor:

- At what age do children begin to draw their first symbolic art work (the 'Ghostly' person)? *2 1/2 or 3 years old → average of 4 years old*
- Are all Kindergarten children past the scribbling stage of art? *NO ✓*
- At what age does the average child first create full story-drawings? *6 years old → around 6-7*
- Is art work an accurate indicator of intelligence in children? *NO ✓ but can demonstrate readiness + learning style*
- Is it good educational practice to have children colour adult drawings? - Why or why not? *No. Adult drawings are difficult for children because they have complex designs + it is hard for kids to be precise when colouring the small area.*
- How does drawing style relate to learning style? *↳ different students may approach drawing differently, similar to how students approach learning differently*
- What developmental drawing age are most North American Adults? *↳ different learners will take to different materials*
 Why? *maybe intermediate grade level (grade 4/5). After elementary school (specifically primary) art isn't emphasized very much + students don't have the opportunity to practice (especially when they reach high school) ↳ grade 4 level b/c lack of focus/interest in education system*

Draw the following stages (Viktor Lowenfeld)

Scribbling Stage



Ages: 2-4

Gang Age: *↳ or with friends?*



Ages: 9-11

Pre-schematic Stage



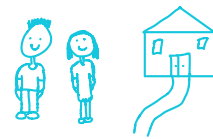
Ages: 5-7

Dawning Realism:

↳ more realistic drawings

Ages: 12+

Schematic Stage



Ages: 8-9

8 What are the advantages of exploring Stage theories? What are the disadvantages?

+ → can help plan art activities at the correct level depending on age of students

- → not all students will be at the level suggested by the stage theories. It may be difficult to help students with the basics if levels are skipped by assuming everyone is at the same stage theory.

Check your Misconceptions – suggested answer sheet

Complete this handout as a group and go over together with your instructor:

1. At what age do children begin to draw their first symbolic art work (the 'Ghostly' person)? *The 'ghostly' person is almost universally the first symbolic drawing children do around the world and on average at around 4 years. This means of course that some will be younger and some will be older.*
2. Are all Kindergarten children past the scribbling stage of art? *No, see number 1 – Kindergarten teachers should observe this phenomena closely regarding readiness for pre-reading activities*
3. At what age does the average child first create full story-drawings? *Around 6-7 – this coincides with the strong narrative push that we capitalize on to teach children to read.*
4. Is artwork an accurate indicator of intelligence in children? *No, however, it may indicate both readiness and learning style*
5. Is it good educational practice to have children colour adult drawings? *Educational research has revealed several problems with colouring adult drawings: first primarily visual learners who enjoy a beautiful surface will enjoy this activity while others will not. Secondly, it has been shown that children often do not even know what some of the adult images are so there is not a lot of thinking going on as opposed to the children's own drawings influenced by experience, observation and discussion. Thirdly, it really singles out students with poor fine motor skills as opposed to doing their won drawings that are more under their own control.*
6. How does drawing style relate to learning style? *In many ways: different learners will take to different materials – e.g. visual learners may hate finger painting as they think it is 'yucky' where tactual learners will glory in the sensuality of the experience. It will also affect speed of working as Kinesthetic learners will often work very quickly while tactual learners must get a feeling before they can even start.*
7. What developmental drawing age are most North American Adults? *According to Betty Edwards in Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain, the average N.A. adult is at about a grade 4 level in art. The reason she states is lack of focus and interest in art on the part of our educational system.*

Draw the following stages (Viktor Lowenfeld)

Scribbling Stage 2-4

Circles or up and down then crossed in the middle

Gang Age: 8-12

*Group drawings
Of space wars
Etc.*

Pre-schematic Stage 4-6

circles with eyes and legs

Dawning Realism: 12-14

Realistic drawings

Schematic Stage 6-9

story pictures with many narrative details

8. What are the advantages of exploring Stage theories? What are the disadvantages? *Advantages: help make sure teacher expectations are not unfair or unrealistic. Disadvantages: each child needs to be seen where they are at right now regardless of the stage. Some teachers may use stages as a way of discriminating against slower*

developers or ignoring quicker developers.