

Summer Activities in the Visual Arts

Here are four fun activities for parents and children:

1. **Things to do while taking a car trip.**

- a. Do something with a ruler. Many children have a hard time learning how to use the ruler. They could have someone measure them every two weeks and see how much they have grown over the summer.
- b. Look at the basic shape in the clouds. See if they can identify cones, cubes, rectangles. Then have them sketch the basic shapes they see. Finally, ask them to turn the basic shapes into some other form, such as insects, animals, etc.
- c. Keep a small journal and jot down observations from different places. This could be a visual diary.
- d. Observe the horizon line and see how things disappear into the vanishing point. See if the child can use a ruler to draw something they see in simple one-point perspective.



2. **Take a trip to the zoo or the aquarium.** Using a simple sketchbook and charcoal, or pencil, have your child make three sketches each time they visit the zoo or aquarium. One sketch should be of an animal. Have them put as much detail about the animal and its habitat into the sketch. Another sketch should be of a plant form of some kind. The child can add insects to make it more interesting. The final sketch could be a free choice - people, objects, landscapes, small animals or insects.



3. **Ride the bus downtown and spend the day.** There is plenty of beautiful architecture downtown. Have child sketch two- and three-point perspectives, cornices, and sculpture on older buildings, or do rubbings of cornerstones. Have lunch at one of the sandwich shops, and then visit the library, the courthouse, a church and its cloister.



4. **Visit a museum and sketch inside and outside.** Both Gilcrease Museum and Philbrook Museum have Summer Arts programs and the Tulsa Parks and Recreation Department have art classes available at the Water Works facility. All costs are reasonable and scholarships are available for the asking.

