

Kindergarten: April
Lesson 6: Playground
Chalk Pastel

Objective: To create a colorful playground using lines and shapes

Technique: Drawing with chalk pastels

Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)

9"x12" light blue construction paper

Chalk pastels

Baby wipes

Spray fixative

Visuals:

Photographs of playground equipment

Sample artwork

Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Students will be drawing a playground scene, using many kinds of lines and shapes. They will be working with chalk pastels. Show photographs of playground equipment: These playgrounds were designed for many children to use. Today you will create a playground of your own design, with elements that most interest you. Show sample artwork.

1. Review (5 min)

- Pastel use and technique: They resemble chalk, but are quite different. Pastels can be used to draw, sketch, color, add small details, and even to blend and smear like paint or chalk.
- **Holding and applying:** Hold your pastel sideways (NOT a like pencil or crayon), between thumb and forefinger. Press softly but firmly on one spot of the paper; this will give you a short but broad mark/streak.
- **Blocking:** Blocking is filling in a space with color. You can use the side or the tip of the pastels and color in your shapes. Your hand will control how dark or light you want to make the color—a bit more pressure on the pastel may make the color appear darker; and less pressure may make the color appear lighter.

- **Blending:** Blending is done by starting with one color, and rubbing an area/patch of color on the paper; next, lightly rub another layer of color over the first color. These two layers will visually blend and look like a color somewhere in between the 2 colors of the pastel.
- **Tip:** Advise students to BE CAREFUL. Avoid blowing the pastel dust up; rather tilt the paper and let dust fall on your desk. Demonstrate as needed.

2. Plan (5 min)

- Anything you ever want to draw is made up of a combination of different lines and shapes (circles, curve, square, zigzag, short, long, thick, etc.)
- Lines: Look at how lines are used in the photograph (curved lines: balance beam, basketball hoop base, outline of the bell; straight lines: ladder, swings).
- Shapes: Notice the shapes in the photographs (slide: triangle; ladder steps: small rectangles)
- When you play at a playground, you might enjoy doing certain activities like swinging, climbing, bicycling, balancing, and jumping.
Think about some of your favorite activities to do at a playground, using your imagination, pretend that you are actually at a playground.
- Lay your drawing paper across your desk in a **landscape** position. Landscape is the way paper is placed if you want to show a horizontal or wide scene, like a playground.

3. Draw (40 min)

- Decide on three playground activities to include, and where they will go on your paper. That is deciding on your **composition**.
- Think of the shapes you can use to show the activities on your playground.
- Choose different color pastels for each activity and draw the shapes on your paper.
- **Hold up two fingers...these two fingers are going to be your “paintbrush.”**
- For pastels, you don’t smear colors together with the palm of your hand. All you need are just the tips of your fingers.
- When your fingers get dirty, ask for a wipe to clean them and then you can change colors.
- After all the shapes are completed, block in shapes with colors—and blend colors—with different colored pastels.

4. Complete and Share (10 min)

- Emphasis: Focus on a few of the lines and shapes you made in your playground scene. Decide which lines and shapes you want to stand out.
- Use lines to complete our playground scene (darken colors for emphasis, add details, etc.)
- Sign name
- Give a title
- Share

Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)

Close the lesson, clean up the classroom

Spray artwork with pastel fixative **outside** the classroom (do not allow children to be present when spraying and close doors to the classroom)

Line papers on the ground next to each other and allow each to dry for a couple of minutes before returning to classroom.

Return pastels to containers

Return all materials to bin

Return all materials to the art closet

Ask teacher where to store artwork

Arrange time with teacher to display artwork



Photographs of playground equipment



Sample artwork: Eric Playground