

## Description of Classes

### Arts & Crafts

This course gives children the opportunity of working with different materials (e.g. paper, paint, fabric, wood) and techniques. Each session starts with a topic which leads to develop thematically related activities. These fun and joyful activities help children express their feelings and imaginations through arts and crafts.

### Art & Inquiry

*“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” ~ Pablo Picasso*

This course is about engaging children in discussion around topics related to art or famous pieces of art. For instance, children may read a storybook such as *‘The Lion and the Little Bird’* or *‘Something Beautiful’* and explore questions such as “What is art?”, “What relationship does art have to nature?”, “What makes something beautiful?”. Through the process of exploring, examining, and expressing freely, children create different paintings, drawings, crafts or collage and make them their own.

### Artists for Children

Artists for Children is about introducing great artists to children and exploring their lives and arts. We watch (parts of) documentary videos of their lives, study their works and have a discussion. Through the process of exploring, examining, and expressing freely, we then create different paintings, drawings, crafts or collage related to the chosen artist and make them our own. Some of these artists are: Van Gogh, Klimt, Anne Whitney, Matisse, and Dali.

### Big, Fun Questions

*Children must be taught how to think, not what to think. ~ Margaret Mead.*

Good questions can spark ideas and lead to discoveries—personal or otherwise—like Isaac Newton’s, “Why should the apple always fall to the earth?” A ‘good question’ can make us look at something from a new perspective. This course is about developing good questions, including questions that are important to children and youth. Children and young people are naturally inquisitive and curious. In our *Big, Fun Questions* course, we provide a space to explore questions that matter to children and for their inquisitive minds to imagine, wonder, and develop more questions.

### Creative Painting (for adults)

*“If you hear a voice within you say ‘you cannot paint,’ then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.” ~ Vincent Van Gogh*

Creative Painting is about painting, creating, and sharing. We'll start with a stimulus (a poem, story, piece of art, video clip, etc.) and introduce a topic, then paint based on that topic. The focus of Creative Paint is not on talent or skill but on imagining and creating in an atmosphere of exploration and enjoyment while sitting together, painting, and becoming friends. All material and guidance provided.

## **Drawing is Fun!**

Drawing is playful seeing that can naturally enrich our lives.

Everyone can draw.

Build your drawing confidence and enjoyment, learn about the elements of art, and practice your drawing skills.

Vancouver artist Louise Phillips leads drawing workshops and classes for beginners and practiced art makers.

## **English Conversation**

Practice speaking English with a friendly Canadian English speaker!

Have fun and speak better English.

Improve your vocabulary and pronunciation.

Learn how to ask questions and talk with Canadians.

This class is for second language English speakers.

## **Existentialism**

This philosophy course starts with Kierkegaard, the father of existentialism. It explores topics such as: pleasure, duty, religious faith, as well as ideas by Jean-Paul Sartre.

## **Fun with Fabric**

In this class, we focus on fabric crafts that do not involve sewing. We use fabrics with different colors, textures and patterns, as well as felt, yarn, string, buttons, fabric glue and the like. Cutting fabrics to make different shapes, we create fabric crafts that are easy, bold, colorful, fun and creative. On last day of class, everyone will show their fabric craft and show off their creations!

## **Learn/Practice French with Stories**

Learn/Practice French with Stories is a fun class for beginners to learn how to read, speak and write in French through storybooks. Sitting together, we read classic literature stories such as *Le petit Chaperon rouge* (Little Red Riding Hood) or *le boucle d'or et trois ours* (Golden Hair and the Three Bears) and learn new words and phrases and do related activities.

## **Miniature Baking/Cooking**

This is an absolutely fun, creative and delicious class for children! Children will have the opportunity of making their own dough, pastry and food while working with tiny pans, pots, bowls and spoons, and even mini stoves! Each child will have his/her own *doll house* and *mini kitchen* so that they can have more ownership and agency over the material and are more engaged in class.

## **Times of Childhood, Childhood of Times**

Childhood and time are concepts that cross our everyday experiences. We think that we are children at the beginning of our lives and that we need to abandon childhood in order to to be adults. This understanding presupposes a concept of childhood and a concept of time. In this course, we'll think together about alternative ways to relate to childhood and time.

Some questions to explore together: Could we experience childhood as adults? How is our experience of time? Is it more quantitative or qualitative? How would we draw time? Is there any childhood living in our adult life?

This course is for anyone who thinks that the concepts of childhood and time have something to do with her or his life and is interested in thinking about them with others.