Latino Art, Language and Culture

Latino Art Language and Culture is an early childhood curriculum development project designed to introduce children ages 2-6 to Latino art and culture and Spanish art vocabulary. It is part of the ARTSmart Early Childhood program at the Beach Museum of Art on the K-State campus. It was funded by a 2006 Early Childhood Arts-in-Education grant from the Kansas Arts Commission.

Learning Goals

- Children will learn about Latino art forms and culture
- Children will learn simple Spanish vocabulary
- Children will create art
- Children will develop skills in all areas of early childhood development/learning including physical, behavioral, and cognitive.

Units

- **Molas** → Kuna Indians of Panama
- **Neirika (Yarn Paintings)** → Huichol Indians of the Sierra Madres, Mexico and the art of the everyday by Carmen Lomas Garza
- **Arpilleras and Los Flores (Flowers)** → Peruvian quilt paintings, paintings by Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, and Simon Silva
- **Weaving** → Zapotec weavings from Mexico and other weaving traditions
- **Alebrijes (Painted wooden animals)** → Oaxaca, Mexico
- **Fiesta** → Piñatas, Papel Picado and more!
- **Dia des Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)** → Mexico and beyond

This curriculum corresponds with the following aspects Kansas Early Childhood Kindergarten Readiness/Standards

Physical Skill Development
Fine motor skills and small muscle development through scissor cutting, drawing, gluing and painting
Sensory development of vision, touch, taste, and hearing

Social Skills Development
Listening skills
Group participation skills
Sharing time and resources

Learning to Learn
Asks questions to learn
Uses senses to explore
Seeks information through observation

Symbolic Development
Acts out plays, stories, and songs
Draws to represent things
Uses art, music and movement to convey feelings

Communication and Literacy Skills
Interprets/reads a picture
Repeats rhymes
Creates art to represent something
Copies symbols
Describes emotions
Predicts and extends outcomes of stories using pictures
Follows directions

Mathematical Knowledge
Counting
Knowledge of shapes
Sorts and classifies through comparison and similarities and differences
Pattern identification and creation
Sequencing, order and position
Size words and measurements

Visual Arts
Explores media and processes
Creates art independently
Recognizes and describes various art forms