

## **Integrating the Arts and Literacy**

*A method to enhance literacy by integrating the arts.*

### **DESCRIPTION**

Literacy is the ability to read and write. Literacy and the arts are naturally linked because learners experiment in many ways by producing and analyzing stories. Learning with the arts can take the abstract concept of language and apply it to a child's creativity or imagination.

#### ***Approaches to Literacy Integration***

There are endless ways to integrate arts and literacy and unlike most subjects they can both be integrated into each other. Arts integration can help a child develop a richer vocabulary. Additionally fluency and compression of content can increase in a desire to understand one's self. The art making process and the writing process include a lot of the same steps, which helps to reinforce learning in both areas. An example of integrating the arts and literacy is storytelling.



### **ANALYSIS**

Student, especially elementary school students have a rich imagination and love telling and listening to stories. They create pictures in their head that go along with the words they are either reading or writing. When this natural process is enforced within the classroom a student can benefit greatly. Reading can be very challenging and keeping with it and continually revising literacy skills will improve. These critical skills for literacy can be mirrored when looking at the art making process where perseverance and editing/ revision are constantly being enforced. These skills being learned in both areas can help students learn how to change and manipulate their thinking to benefit in both the arts and literacy.

In most subjects, art is integrated only into that subject, but in literacy they both feed off of each other that they can work both ways. Vocabulary in the arts is crucial when describing artwork. Words such as contrast or saturation can be used both inside and outside the art world. Every student has a desire to express his or her thoughts, feelings, and words and arts integration can help students with fluency and compression to help students express themselves, maintain focus, and take risks. A student can help better express himself or herself when they learn skills such as experimentation, drafting, revising, editing, and sharing. All of these skills are learned in both the writing process and the art making process. A great way to start integrating arts and literacy is storytelling. Storytelling can be done in many ways including having a student draw a picture and write a story and/or have the teacher read the students a story to engage their imaginations and create artwork based on the story.