



**"We want to positively impact people's lives through the power and appreciation of art."**

April, 2016

Issue #111

**In This Issue:**

**New Series: The Importance of Art in Daily Life- Series Article 4**

All year we will be focusing on the importance art plays in our daily life through a series of interesting articles.

For the FREE Report, **Selecting Appropriate Art for Your Health Care Facility** visit [www.montenagler.com](http://www.montenagler.com)

**Upcoming Events:**

**Photography Class at Crooked Tree Arts Center**

322 6th St, Traverse City, MI 49684  
Date: April 16; Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Join Monte in Traverse City, Michigan where you'll learn tips and techniques for taking amazing photographs, then put that new found knowledge into practice outside with Monte as your guide.  
For details please call: (231) 941-9488

**Photography Workshop Trip with Monte Nagler Spring 2016**

This year's trip will begin on April 30th in Ohio's dazzling Hocking Hills State Park and will conclude on May 8th at Toledo's world re-known zoo and aquarium. And, as always on these trips, we stumble upon so many unexpected photo opportunities along the way! For more details [Click Here](#).

**Fine Art Photography with a Master/Schoolcraft College;**

Jeffress Center  
18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152  
Date: June 27, 2016; Time: 6 - 10 p.m.  
Spend an evening with Monte Nagler, a renowned photographer, writer, lecturer and teacher of photography. Let him teach you to see photographs as a way to experience beauty. Learn about composition, shutter speeds, apertures and exposure. See techniques you can use with digital cameras, filters, flash, and lenses to create a spectacular photo. Breathe new life into your photos, creating a positive impact for your viewers. For more information or to register [Click Here](#).

**MONTE NAGLER  
FINE ART, L.L.C.**



## The Importance of Art in Child Development

By Grace Hwang Lynch on pbs.org

In recent years, school curricula in the United States have shifted heavily toward common core subjects of reading and math, but what about the arts? Although some may regard art education as a luxury, simple creative activities are some of the building blocks of child development. Learning to create and appreciate visual aesthetics may be more important than ever to the development of the next generation of children as they grow up.

### Developmental Benefits of Art

**Motor Skills:** Many of the motions involved in making art, such as holding a paintbrush or scribbling with a crayon, are essential to the growth of fine motor skills in young children. According to the National Institutes of Health, developmental milestones around age three should include drawing a circle and beginning to use safety scissors. Around age four, children may be able to draw a square and begin cutting straight lines with scissors. Many preschool programs emphasize the use of scissors because it develops the dexterity children will need for writing.

**Language Development:** For very young children, making art—or just talking about it—provides opportunities to learn words for colors, shapes and actions. When toddlers are as young as a year old, parents can do simple activities such as crumpling up paper and calling it a “ball.” By elementary school, students can use descriptive words to discuss their own creations or to talk about what feelings are elicited when they see different styles of artwork.

**Decision Making:** According to a report by Americans for the Arts, art education strengthens problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The experience of making decisions and choices in the course of creating art carries over into other parts of life. “If they are exploring and thinking and experimenting and trying new ideas, then creativity has a chance to blossom,” says MaryAnn Kohl, an arts educator and author of numerous books about children’s art education.

**Visual Learning:** Drawing, sculpting with clay and threading beads on a string all develop visual-spatial skills, which are more important than ever. Even toddlers know how to operate a smart phone or tablet, which means that even before they can read, kids are taking in visual information. This information consists of cues that we get from pictures or three-dimensional objects from digital media, books and television.

“Parents need to be aware that children learn a lot more from graphic sources now than in the past,” says Dr. Kerry Freedman, Head of Art and Design Education at Northern Illinois University. “Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it.” Knowledge about the visual arts, such as graphic symbolism, is especially important in helping kids become smart consumers and navigate a world filled with marketing logos.

**Inventiveness:** When kids are encouraged to express themselves and take risks in creating art, they develop a sense of innovation that will be important in their adult lives. “The kind of people society needs to make it move forward are thinking, inventive people who seek new ways and improvements, not people who can only follow directions,” says Kohl. “Art is a way to encourage the process and the experience of thinking and making things better!”

**Cultural Awareness:** As we live in an increasingly diverse society, the images of different groups in the media may also present mixed messages. “If a child is playing with a toy that suggests a racist or sexist meaning, part of that meaning develops because of the aesthetics of the toy—the color, shape, texture of the hair,” says Freedman. Teaching children to recognize the choices an artist or designer makes in portraying a subject helps kids understand the concept that what they see may be someone’s interpretation of reality.

**Improved Academic Performance:** Studies show that there is a correlation between art and other achievement. A report by Americans for the Arts states that young people who participate regularly in the arts (three hours a day on three days each week through one full year) are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair or to win an award for writing an essay or poem than children who do not participate.