

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Top tips: Gallery visits

**“An attraction for colour, non-figurative exploration in drawing, inventing signs and forms to try and represent the world – these are all part of a child's world but are also close to the artist's world.” Via Vecchi, 2010.**

Taking young children to an art gallery can enhance their aesthetic sensibilities, spark their imagination and create unique moments of awe and wonder. Here are some tips for the visit.

1. Prior to the visit, introduce children to some pieces of art (paintings, sculptures, photographs etc) which they will see at the gallery. Encourage them to tell you what they can see in the piece of art and/or how it makes them feel. This will give them relevant vocabulary to react to the art at the gallery. Give them time to think - young children have the capacity to respond to art in complex and interesting ways
2. Explain that we can go to a special place called an art gallery to see art. Some children may have some experience of visiting a gallery. If so, encourage them to share their experience and thoughts about their visit
3. Choose a gallery with exhibits appropriate for young children. Plan the visit around specific exhibitions that are visually engaging. Some galleries have special events and activities for young children
4. Set behavioural expectations before your visit, such as, not touching the art (unless it's designed to be interactive)
5. Encourage children to create their own stories about the artwork
6. Ask open-ended questions such as, “What do you see/hear/smell” or, “What is happening?” - you may get some surprising responses
7. Validate their observations and feelings – there are no right or wrong answers
8. Limit the time you are there, depending on the children's ages, and incorporate short breaks to prevent them becoming overwhelmed
9. Find somewhere quiet to reflect on what you have all seen and experienced
10. If you have a camera, take some photos to look back on and share later



### NDNA products to support you with these tips

- Face to face training – [Expressive Arts and Design](#)

And more resources at [www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna](http://www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna)