

Preschool Art: The Starry Night

Learning Value:

This activity promotes development and learning by encouraging children to maintain focus and sustain attention.

Materials Needed:

- ▶ [“The Starry Night”](#) by Van Gogh
- ▶ Optional:
- ▶ Paint
- ▶ Paintbrushes
- ▶ Paper



Participants:

This activity is intended for adult/child interaction:

Directions:

Step 1: Encourage your child to look deeply at the image of “The Starry Night.” Remember as many details as possible.

Step 2: Hide the image. Ask your child, “What do you remember about “The Starry Night?” Listen as your child responds. Compliment him or her for paying such close attention and remembering so many details. Add your own insights and observations.

Depending on your child’s age and interest, you could go discuss the painting more thoroughly. Talk about the areas of the painting your eye goes to first. Point out how Van Gogh used brush strokes to depict movement. How does the painting make your child feel? Notice the lights in the village compared to the lights in the sky. Which ones are bigger? Why do you think the artist made the stars and sky so big compared to the village? Gauge your discussion on your child’s response, ending before your child loses interest.

Optional: Pull out some paints and paper and make your own starry night pictures, using Van Gogh’s work as a model. Talk with older children about perspective—painting distant objects smaller and closer objects larger. Point out how the artist uses light and dark colors.