



Pragmatic Arts Program Spring 2010

A Brief History:

ArtSpan is the non-profit visual arts education program of Munroe Center for the Arts located in Lexington, MA. We offer visual arts courses for all ages and are committed to providing quality arts educational programming for the community of Lexington and beyond.

The development of the Pragmatic Arts Program started in the summer of 2006, when Danielle Luce, a teacher with the Intensive Learning Program (ILP), initiated an inclusion program for ILP students with ArtSpan. Approximately a dozen students joined us that summer for half-days for our multi-disciplinary Summer Arts Program. Since that summer, ArtSpan has consciously reached out to students within the ILP to take part in our school-year and vacation programs both as campers and counselors. These previous initiatives met with many successes, and it raised an awareness that a program such as the Pragmatic Arts Program was much needed in our community.

With further guidance from Danielle Luce and from interested ArtSpan parents and families, we moved forward to develop and implement this program in an effort to meet those needs. With future success and funding, this program will grow to allow more students more access to this intriguing and innovative approach to pragmatics and expressive development.

Pragmatic Arts Program Overview:

This Spring marks the one year anniversary of our Pragmatic Arts Program which provides arts classes for students who struggle with peer relationships and social skills.

Conducted by an expressive therapist, Cecile Reve, these classes highlight visual and dramatic arts to convey social expectations and self-expression for elementary and middle school aged students living with Autistic Spectrum disorders or any other social cognition challenge.

Creative arts therapies have shown to be beneficial to the development of social and life skills while working with materials and media that promote self-expression and awareness. Art projects tailored by an expressive therapist may promote the development of abstract thinking skills, better hand-eye coordination and spatial recognition, and more patience and flexibility in accomplishing tasks.

The curriculum goals of the Pragmatic Arts Program have been established so students will experience social interaction and be encouraged to define social skills and relate them to their own experiences. Students of the Pragmatic Arts Program will be invited to work in partners and groups to encourage communication and cooperation.

In a community committed to providing the best quality education, ArtSpan welcomes the opportunity to offer students to discover, imagine and learn in a safe, structured and creative environment.



Pragmatic Arts Program Curriculum Goals

As developed by Cecile Reve

1. For students to experience social interaction as a practice and not only a rote series of expectations.
2. For students to be able to define social skills and relate them to their own personal experiences.
3. For students to begin to recognize non-verbal and intuitive social cues.
4. Expose students to a larger pool of social-emotional responses by practicing an embodied decision-making model.
5. Increase students' ability to stay relaxed and open in the face of distraction, negative thinking and anxiety.

Group Description:

Each of the sessions will include individual and group activities, as well as sharing circles to open and close the group. As they interact and engage in a creative process together, with visual and performing art activities, participants will be introduced to social skill concepts and given opportunities to practice them. Within this journey, group members will be able to deepen their appreciation for the relevance of these skills, build character, and celebrate the freedom to express themselves and receive feedback within a safe group setting. During the last group, participants will be able to share their work with family members during an informal showcase.

About Cecile Reve, LMHC-ET:

Cecile Reve is an Expressive Arts Therapist, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, and Teacher. She carries a Masters in Expressive Arts Therapy from Lesley University and has been using drama, music, movement and art to work with children and adults with social cognition challenges for the past ten years. She has worked with a variety of programs in local schools, private and group homes, community and art centers, early intervention, mental health clinics, and vocational programs. Her practice is based in the belief that all people, when feeling integrated and self-confident about their creative power, can access the skills they need to become socially connected.



Pragmatic Arts Program

Spring 2010: April 1- June 11

Pragmatic Arts Program Spring 2010 Schedule:

Courses will meet once a week for one hour and will be structured by age group. Groups will be no larger than six students. Each class will have support staff in the form of a graduate intern from Lesley University and/or qualified Lexington High School student volunteers seeking community service hours. Class tuition is \$250.00

Spring Session Runs from April 1- June 11
No classes will run on April 22 or 23

Boys' Group for ages 6 to 9
Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm

Group for older kids ages 10 to 14 (new time)
Thursdays 4:45-5:45

Girls' Group for ages 6 to 9 (new time)
Fridays 3:30-4:30

Enrolled parents will be asked to meet briefly with Cecile Reve before the first class.

Please contact the ArtSpan office at 781.862.6040 with any questions or to register.



An innovative expressive arts program for children who struggle with peer relationships and social skills.

MUNROE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1403 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
LEXINGTON, MA
781.862.6040 MUNROECENTER.ORG