

Keys to the Success of Get Smart with Art

Training is Mandatory. Don't go in the classroom and flounder around, wasting the teacher's time and frustrating the students. Don't ask the teachers where the supplies are---this is not their job to know, it is a PTO project. Know where things are, how things will be run, what the rules are.

Be Prepared. Our program will lose validity if volunteers come in 5 minutes before a lesson, having never seen it before. The children deserve better than this, or why do it? Perhaps volunteers may want to trade off roles for certain lessons. The assistant should help with prep AND clean up, as well as during the lesson. Having a "team" like this gives you more flexibility if someone cannot come or turns out to be irresponsible.

"Get a Substitute". And get one early. If you let the coordinator know a month, or a week or even a few days in advance, then the sub-volunteer has time to prepare a quality lesson. The program deserves this; the kids deserve this. We cannot emphasize enough the important of the commitment. Teachers have left out 30 to 60 minutes of the learning day for the lesson that the volunteer will provide. If the volunteer is late (and then flustered), the students will be waiting, getting restless. If the volunteer does not show up, the kids will be VERY disappointed and the teacher could understandably be very upset. *Reminder calls (or emails) to your fellow volunteer(s) and teachers are helpful for the first few lessons.*

Tell the Coordinator. If there is snow day, or assembly or other reason that the teacher may need to change the scheduled date, or you can't get a sub but are willing to teach another date, it is important to find a date that the teacher approves AND BE SURE TO TELL THE COORDINATOR ABOUT YOUR DATE or TIME CHANGE. She can tell you if others will be using the prints or materials at your new lesson time.

No Siblings should be present at the lessons. Ever.

These items are critical to the success of the program, protection of the investment, and courtesy to the school staff.

Nothing will ruin our program faster than the violation any of the items above.