

# Ready to Homeschool — Six Month Countdown

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## **WEEK 26: ART, MUSIC, AND CREATIVITY**

Learning to be creative takes confidence. It usually springs forth from a place of rest and/or thoughtfulness. It takes growth and time to internalize the skills needed to produce something new.

**“Art is how we decorate space.**

**Music is how we decorate time.”** — Jean Michael Basquiat

### **Art**

- Drawing
- Painting — watercolor, acrylics, oils
- Collages
- Mosaics
- Calligraphy
- Photography
- Portraiture
- Graphic Design
- Screen Printing/ Print Making
- Stained Glass
- Murals
- Sculpture
- Wood Carving
- Origami
- Ceramics
- Architecture
- Landscaping
- Interior Design
- “Abstract” art
- Art History (separate concepts from art “skills” but can be taught simultaneously)

Prepare throughout the preschool years — encourage them, provide age-appropriate materials

Recognizing famous paintings and artists

Crayons, chalk, finger paints, glue, scissors, etc.

Goals in the early elementary years:

Learning to “see” art

Art vocabulary

Time to develop skill and interests

Avoid “identical” art projects — unless teaching a skill

Later elementary/middle school years

Incorporate ART into other studies (especially history)

Introduce more advanced materials and artistic skills

Provide large time blocks for creating art OR honing a skill

Visit Art Museums

High School/College years

Take more formal classes or look for video lessons from skilled enthusiastic artists

Intentionally have conversations with local artists (vocational and hobbyists)

## **Music**

- Singing (solo, ensemble, choir, etc.)
- Reading Musical notation
- Rhythm instruments
- Recorder
- Piano
- Other band/orchestra instruments
- Instruments from other cultures or time periods in history
- Chord theory (Melody vs. Harmony)
- Dance
- Composing
- Musical Genres of America (Jazz, Waltz, Marches, etc.)
- Specific songs from an era (Civil War, Sea Shanties, etc.)
- Broadway Musicals
- Famous Composers
- Musical connections with Math and Physics (vibrations, string length, Pythagoras, etc)
- Recording studios (and AV sound systems)
- Acoustics
- Music Therapy

Prepare throughout the preschool years

Listen to GOOD music — incorporate variety

Sing together

Rhythm instruments/piano — they can't mess up

Goals in the early elementary years:

Take them to concerts and musicals

“Peter and the Wolf”

Introduce old folk songs that went with games (London Bridge is Falling Down)

Pick three to five songs to learn really well

Later elementary/middle school years

Reading Musical Notation

Piano, band or orchestra instrument, recorder, etc.

Learn harmony — singing/playing instruments with a group

Find places for your kids to “perform” (like the nursing home)

Pair songs with history and geography studies

High School/College years

Study the physics behind music and acoustics

Intentionally have conversations with local musicians (vocational and hobbyists)

Tour a recording studio or learn how to use a soundboard

## **Resources:**

### ***The Classic Composer series*** by International Masters Publishers AB

This series features famous composers and each item contains a CD with recordings of their works, plus a little booklet with their life story and a listening guide.

(Try to find on ebay)

### ***Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists/Composers*** by Mike Venezia

A great paperback series with simplified biographies. Some illustrations read like a comic book. Those that feature artists have reprints of their works. Great for studying artists of the Renaissance, but there are some titles that reflect more modern contributors.

### ***Dover Coloring Books — “Famous American Paintings”***

Line drawings of famous paintings that your kids can color. Look for similar titles, depending on what you are studying.

[www.doverpublications.com](http://www.doverpublications.com)

### ***The Annotated Mona Lisa*** by Carol Strickland

More of a teacher's manual or reference for you as you prepare to teach art history and familiarize yourself with famous artists and styles.

### ***Heart to Heart*** edited by Jan Greenberg

The pages are filled with American Art. Poets were asked to write a new poem in response to the art. This is helpful as you are teaching your kids to slow down, really look at a painting, and find out what your own soul's reaction is. Then compare it to another soul and what they expressed in poetry. These studies cannot be rushed. They must be savored. You can encourage your own kids to do something similar if it interests them.

### ***Child-Sized Masterpieces*** by Aline D. Wolf (Parent Child Press)

This series comes with a teacher's guide that will help immensely in knowing what to do with all the full-color art reproductions included in each large book. They are designed to be used with young children as an introduction to fine art. Activities include matching postcard-size paintings with each other, or combining them with other paintings by the same artist or in the same style. Available for different historical time periods and at more advanced levels as well.

<https://www.rainbowresource.com/category/5135/Child-Sized-Masterpieces.html>

### ***Off The Wall Museum Guide for Kids (series)*** by Ruthie Knapp and Janice Lehmborg

Pocket sized guides to help you and your kids ENJOY the art you see in a museum.

These books are less intimidating and helpful as a quick introduction to what you might see and how you can become more interested and appreciative of your time in the museum.

## **Resources:**

***Come Look with Me*** by Gladys S. Blizzard/ Bank Street College of Education/ others  
Pages and pages of full color reproductions, along with a short informational blurb, AND (most helpful) questions to ask children to help them notice more. There are at least 10 books in this series, and each features a different theme.

***The Usborne Introduction to Modern Art*** by Rosie Dickins

This book is a child-friendly way to teach your kids about art from the 19th century on. Readable text and carefully selected photos for innocent eyes make this a good place to start.

Usborne has several other excellent art books — look for them used.

***Musical Instruments*** by Scholastic

***Pet of the Met*** by Lydia and Don Freeman

***Beethoven Lives Upstairs*** by Barbara Nichol

***Music and Moments with the Masters*** by David and Shirley Quine

***An Introduction to the Classics*** CD Set by VOX, the Music Masters Series

These are just a representative sampling of what is out there to expose your kids to highbrow classical music. There was an explosion of this type of music during the 1700's and 1800's, mostly in Europe. And sometimes we think that's the ONLY type of music to focus on if we want to educate our children. Spend time covering it, of course, but go for a broader perspective long-term.

## ***Vintage Hymnbooks***

For me, nothing could impart the spiritual doctrine as well as the familiar hymns from my childhood (except the Bible, of course). So we learned hymns together, “all four verses” usually, as part of our morning Bible time and memory work. I don't regret it at all!

## ***Wee Sing* and *Cedarhurst Kids***

Both of these have several titles in the series. They are great ways to familiarize your kids with a large repertoire of songs — simply by playing them often in the background of your everyday life.

***Melody Harp*** by Music Maker

This simple lap harp is constructed so that the sheet music slips under the strings and guides ANYONE with eyeballs to play a song. It's a great way to include music education with your little ones who are not ready for more advanced music lessons yet.

## ***Recorders, Rhythm instruments, Glockenspiel, Boomwhackers***

I mention these as fun additions to any home where you want music to happen spontaneously. Yes, there will be NOISE.... Which is something of a prerequisite to true MUSIC, usually. But you don't have to have all of these instruments out at the same time.

***Piano for Quitters and Piano for Life*** by Mark Almond

These DVD's teach the basics of chords and harmony, and have the student at the piano trying out the lessons from the very beginning. For those who learned to read musical notation, this method seems intimidating, but also freeing.