



Top 10 Skills Students Learn from the Arts

<http://blog.artsusa.org/2012/11/26/the-top-10-skills-children-learn-from-the-arts/>

- 1. Creativity** – Being able to think on your feet, approach tasks from different perspectives and think 'outside of the box' will distinguish your child from others.
- 2. Confidence** – The skills developed through Performing Arts, not only train you how to convincingly deliver a message, but also build the confidence you need to take command of the stage. Theater training gives students practice stepping out of their comfort zone and allows them to make mistakes and learn from them in rehearsal.
- 3. Problem Solving** – Artistic creations are born through the solving of problems. How do I portray a particular emotion through dance? How will my character react in this situation? Without even realizing it kids that participate in the arts are consistently being challenged to solve problems. All this practice problem solving develops students' skills in reasoning and understanding. This will help develop important problem-solving skills necessary for success in any career.
- 4. Perseverance** – In an increasingly competitive world, where people are being asked to continually develop new skills, perseverance is essential to achieving success. When a student is given a dramatic role for the first time, she/he knows that performing perfectly right away is not an option; however, when that student practices, learns the skills and techniques and doesn't give up, that dramatic performance is that much closer.
- 5. Focus/Team Work** – Recent research has shown that participation in the arts improves students' abilities to concentrate, focus and work with others, in various aspects of their lives. The ability to focus is a key skill developed through ensemble work. Keeping a balance between listening and contributing involves a great deal of concentration and focus. It requires each participant to not only think about their role, but how their role contributes to the big picture of what is being created.
- 6. Non-Verbal Communication** – Through experiences in theater and dance education, students learn to breakdown the mechanics of body language. They experience different ways of moving and how those movements communicate different emotions. They are then coached in performance skills to ensure they are portraying their character effectively to the audience.
- 7. Receiving Constructive Feedback** – Receiving constructive feedback about a performance or visual art piece is a regular part of any arts instruction. Students learn that feedback is part of learning and it is not something to be offended by or to be taken personally. It is something helpful. The goal is the improvement of skills and evaluation is incorporated at every step of the process. Each arts discipline has built in parameters to ensure that critique is a valuable experience and greatly contributes to the success of the final piece.
- 8. Collaboration** – Most arts disciplines are collaborative in nature. Through the arts, students practice working together, sharing responsibility, and compromising with others to accomplish a common goal. When a child has a part to play in a music ensemble, or a theater or dance production, they begin to understand that their contribution is necessary for the success of the group. Through these experiences students gain confidence and start to learn that their contributions have value even if they don't have the biggest role.
- 9. Dedication** – When kids get to practice following through with artistic endeavors that result in a finished product or performance, they learn to associate dedication with a feeling of accomplishment. They practice developing healthy work habits of being on time for rehearsals and performances, respecting the contributions of others, and putting effort into the success of the final piece. In the performing arts, the reward for dedication is the warm feeling of an audience's applause that comes rushing over you, making all your efforts worthwhile.
- 10. Accountability** – When students practice creating something collaboratively they get used to the idea that their actions affect other people. They learn that when they are not prepared or on-time, that other people suffer. Through the arts, students also learn that it is important to admit that you made a mistake and take responsibility for it. Because mistakes are a regular part of the process of learning in the arts, students begin to see that mistakes happen. We acknowledge them, learn from them and move on.