



Quarrybrook

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION CENTER

Program Title: **The Language of Color**

Audience: K2 students

Program Theme: The natural world uses color to communicate in many ways, and has inspired great artists to paint Nature and all its colors throughout history.

Program Goals: Students will engage in activities that explore the different ways that animals and plants use color to communicate and survive in the forest. Students will be introduced to classic artwork created by artists finding inspiration in the natural world. Students will then seek their own inspirations along the trail, in order to create a watercolor painting based on their observations of Nature. *(Please keep this part a surprise for the students!)*

Next Generation Standard: K-LS1-1 Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

Objectives:

- **What are the objectives?** Students will understand Nature's use of color, in camouflage and warning coloration. Students will be introduced to classic artwork created by artists finding inspiration in the natural world. Students will have the opportunity to create their own masterpiece based on their observations of Nature.
- **How will they be measured?** Students will find and explain examples of Nature's use of color. Students will compare colors they find in the environment to the shades on their color wheel frame. Students will create their own watercolor masterpiece!

Program Outline:

Activity 1: CAMO CAPERS (30 min.) – We'll first learn about camouflage and then challenge the students to "disappear" from the predators (the grown-ups!). A take on hide-and-seek, this game will be a fun opportunity for the students and teachers to play together while also reinforcing the concept and nuances of camouflage. Visual aids will be used to help further explain the concept.



Teachers and chaperones will take on the roles of the predators and will try to find the hiding students. All grown-ups will also be helpful in maintaining the playing area boundaries so the students remain within the game zone.

Activity 2: COLOR TRAIL (45 min.) – This walk will begin by adding aposematism to our understanding of Nature's use of color. It is an anti-predator adaptation, where a warning signal (a color, sound, scent...) communicates the unprofitability of pursuing a prey animal to a potential predator ("Don't Eat Me!"). As we walk, students will be encouraged to find examples of camouflage and aposematic coloration. The second half of the walk will move into the human experience and use of color through an artistic

exploration of the forest. We will learn about artists everywhere being inspired by Nature's beauty and colors. Students will use a color wheel frame to help them notice the array of colors seen when we take a closer look at natural objects. Students will be encouraged to focus on a scene they may wish to paint later.



Teachers will be asked to split the students into sub-teams. Each grown-up will guide their sub-team through the different trail investigations. It will be helpful for grown-ups to remind students to stay focused on spotting examples of camouflage and warning coloration. Grown-ups will also encourage students to notice colors in the environment that are found on their color wheel frames.

Activity 3: OUTDOOR ART STUDIO (45 min.) – Please keep this part of the class a surprise for the students! Following the walk, we will head to an open area to set up an outdoor art studio. Instructors will introduce the students to the plein air (“in the open air”) artwork of Monet and van Gogh. Then students will be given materials to paint their own watercolor masterpieces!



Grown-ups will continue assisting their sub-teams throughout this process. This will be a relaxed activity in which the students will sit comfortably on a large tarp and take their time creating their own artwork. Grown-ups are always welcome to create along with the students!

Conclusion/Wrap-up: We will finish the day with a standing art gallery. Students will have the opportunity to stand with their painting and share what they have created with the entire group.