

How to Plan an Engaging (And Fun!) Trip to the KIA

Step 1: Check the museum website (you are already there so you are off to a good start!)

- Look for hours, any fees, parking and other facilities.
- Check out the website with your children. Look at pictures of exhibitions and talk about what you will see in the museum. Let them pick out a few favorite works that they want to see during the visit.

Step 2: Find family-friendly activities. The KIA has lots to interest you and your family.

- Look at the daily calendar (link to calendar). There might be a Family Funday, children's workshop or public tour going on the day of your visit.
- Visit our Artworks Interactive Gallery (link to Int. Gallery) on the lower level. Electronic art games, puzzles, books and more for the entire family!
- Check in with the information desk when you arrive. Our *A to Z Art Cards* are ready for the youngest viewers while *Hangin' Out at the KIA* is geared towards the elementary and middle school set.

Step 3: Getting ready to visit.

- Read a book about going to a museum. Here is a great list of books that will appeal to any child's interests. (Link to children's book list about museums).
- Plan a scavenger hunt. Look for specific object (dogs, children, fruit, things that start with the letter of your child's first name). Or plan to use one of the KIA's activity card sets.
- You could also bring a notebook and a pencil (no pens please!) so your child could do some sketching or writing. Making up stories or poems about works of art is lots of fun!
- Ask questions-what do you see? What is the story? How many oranges are in this still life? If you were going to take a trip into this painting, what would you need to bring? What's your favorite work in this gallery and why?'
- Discuss Museum Manners. Before you go, talk to your children about how to behave:

No touching any work of art.

Use walking feet.

Use inside voices.

Other helpful tips

- Keep your visit short. Don't expect to see everything in one visit.
- Make sure the kids are well-rested and fed. They will have a better time and so will you. You want to leave the museum before they get overwhelmed so they will look forward to their next visit.
- Dress comfortably, preferably in layers and wear comfortable shoes.