

*the* VIRGINIA STEELE SCOTT  
GALLERIES *of* AMERICAN ART

Ready, Set, Go!  
Preparing to tour Lower Elementary



# Introduction



- Meet your group
  - Introduce yourself, Get to know them, Be warm and smile
- Introduce the day
  - Ask what the students anticipate and expect from their time with you
  - Frontload both the format of the next hour and your expectations (attention, participation, etiquette)
  - Ask what students know about art, what they want to know about art, and at the end of the day review what the group learned. (K-W-L)
- Repeat your theme several times
  - Check for retention of theme, goals, rules, etc.
- Touch base with your chaperones

# Touring

- Break up activities with different type of sensory experiences and modalities
- Stand for storytelling (5min), sit and twin/pair/share (5 min) = 10 minute stop
- Make it fun and active
  - Use familiar formats: Simon Says, Storytelling, Mystery Theater, If these characters could talk, what might they say....



# Be Proactive

- K-3 really wants to please you
- Give a lot of positive feedback and attention
  - Focus on good behaviors and praise them: “I like how June is sitting so quietly.”, “I like how Nick raises his hand.”  
“That’s a great observation, I never thought of that.”
  - Reward good behavior: i.e, let children take turns being the leader of the line.
- Set students up for success
  - Telling a student where they CAN put their hands (hold a friends hand, put their hands in their laps) is easier than getting tired and frustrated saying “don’t touch”.
  - Sitting students on the floor or walking them in a line will keep them from leaning on walls or touching without having to always reinforce something negative.
  - Frontload: “When I say go, but not yet we are going to stand up, get in our line and walk to the next piece”.
  - Don’t shout over your students.
- Set boundaries but never be harsh or critical
- Trust your parenting skills





# But I Can't Stop Wiggling



- Students at this age have an attention span of about 5 minutes.
- Expect them to be at least a little fidgety.
  - Your job is to captivate their attention, engage and focus their energy. Put your focus on your goal.
  - Try playing a quick game of “heads, shoulders, knees and toes” or “statue” to get their bodies quiet half way through your talk.
  - Occasionally a child might need a chaperone to stand next to them to keep them calm.

# Other Tips

- Theme, Theme, Theme (Have I said that enough...)
- Keep it simple
- Review frequently and reinforce ideas.
  - Ask students to repeat what you said to check for comprehension and retention.
- Compare and contrast two or three objects
  - Look at groupings.
- Once you have them focused, try to have at least one extended looking stop
- Don't just talk at them but draw them out to share their thoughts and feelings



# Be Considerate



- Check the map to see who comes in the room before and after you
- Don't overstay your stop
- When sharing a room, use your inside voice
- Be a good team member
- You are not alone



# Enjoy Yourself

