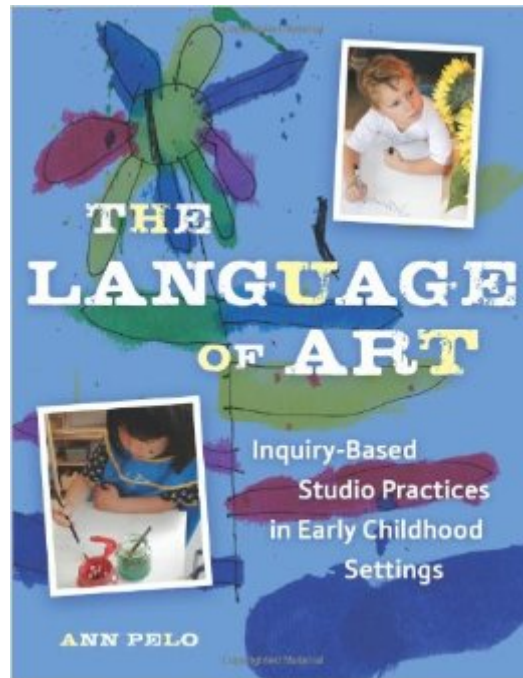


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# The Language Of Art: Inquiry-Based Studio Practices In Early Childhood Settings



## Synopsis

Incorporate inquiry-based practices into your early childhood classroom or family child care program. Inspired by an approach to teaching and learning born in Reggio Emilia, Italy, *The Language of Art* emphasizes investigation anchored by drawing, painting, and other art activities. It provides: advice on setting up a studio space for art and inquiry studio explorations designed to give children a basic fluency in art suggestions for documenting children's developing fluency with art media and its use in inquiry guidelines for using children's new-found fluency as a tool for investigation. Even if you use a space not designed specifically for art instruction or even for an early childhood program, *The Language of Art* shows how you can simply start where you are.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is an exceptional resource for those just beginning to offer a creative art program in their school, or for those experienced in offering creative arts who want some new insights to add to their program! This book is NOT a guide to arts and crafts, it is far more than that. It truly draws on the philosophies of Reggio Emilia and the concept of using creative art as a form of self expression, but these concepts are presented in such a way that even an educator with no prior knowledge of Reggio Emilia could implement the program successfully. It includes descriptions of various art activities (including watercolors, tempera paint, clay, and more), materials lists, and instructions for clean up, but even more valuable to me were the guides to conversing with children as they worked in an engaging, but non-directive manner. A must-have book for anyone interested in offering

children creative art opportunities!

Anne Pelo is such a great mentor. This book is wonderful! It has inspired me to think about art as an experience rather than an activity. This is what is meant by process, not product art. I wish I had this book when I first started teaching! This book has given me the confidence to teach children how to use many types of art medium, use art tools correctly and confidently, and clean-up with ease. And each chapter has detailed, Reggio-inspired ways of documenting art practices with young children.

This book will change how you view the role of art in your classroom! It shows you how to move children from initial explorations of various art media to using art as a tool for communication and critical thinking. I am an early childhood educator and this book is one of my all-time favorite resources. The first five chapters provide detailed instructions for setting up a wide variety of open-ended art experiences for children. The final three chapters show you how to use art as a tool to promote critical thinking (i.e., higher-order thinking). And these final chapters are my favorite. They describe Reggio-inspired principles that help you grow a culture of inquiry in your classroom!! appreciate that each principle is coupled with classroom examples to both instruct and inspire. The examples show how children use art to communicate (make their thinking visible), build relationships, and deepen or extend their learning about science and other topics. Considerable attention is given to the integration of science and the arts. Because art (like science) invites children to look closely, ask questions, and reflect about one's thinking. Something I found especially helpful was the "teacher talk" interspersed throughout the book (italicized and in bold). This helped me learn how to speak to my students during the art/science process, giving me the words I needed to instruct about technique or giving me the questions I could ask to promote critical thinking. I loved that the classroom examples also showed an emergent curriculum in action, with long-term investigations that honor the child's learning cycle. My wish is that every child could experience art and inquiry-based science in this way. If you are an early childhood educator, I hope you get a chance to read this book!

Great book to read for early childhood teachers. This book is practical, easy to read and gives great ideas for you to use in your classroom. The use of clay, wire, drawings and much more are described throughout this book. If you enjoy thinking "out of the box" when it comes to art...this is a must read!

Art is my passion as a teacher and this book has helped me to gain a better understanding of art and how to expand the experiences the children in my care receive :)

I found this book particularly helpful because the author found a sweet spot between assuming the reader was intelligent but not assuming the reader always had the same knowledge as the writer. She explained the terms she was using, she gave examples of directions and conversations and she used photographs where they were needed. I will incorporate many of these ideas into my practice.

I really love this book! I have given it to all the teachers in my center as a guide for classroom arts. It is well thought out and easy to follow. The pictures are very helpful. This is not an art guide for an art teacher- this is a book for people that are in the classroom and want to add arts into the curriculum. Ann has done a great job. I highly recommend this book.

Already has improved our art projects at home ~ excellent to have this amazing guide.

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