



## Art Concepts for Kids: **Line!**

This session, our online art class explores “LINE”. What is a “LINE”?  
 A line is just a dot that went for a walk! :)  
 “An active line on a walk, moves freely, without goal.” -Paul Klee

***This adorable folk song teaches you all about line***  
[Scratch Garden Value Song \(all ages\)](#)

*Now for the activities!! Click on the links in the descriptions below for the step-by-step details.*

### **Ages 2-4**

#### **Big scribbles**

It could not get more basic. Big scribbling is a way for toddlers to practice fine motor, as well as gross motor skills. Sometimes they use their whole bodies to make lines! Provide them with large pieces of paper taped down to a surface and plenty of markers and crayons. This is a great way to talk about Lines and let them explore. They can even use more than one marker at once!

#### **Scribble Dudes**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8go4ZvelcU>

<https://capturingparenthood.com/im-not-just-a-scribble-scribble-art/>

Watch the YouTube video and get a sense of the story “I’m Not Just a Scribble”. This activity is simple and creative. It could lead to a child also developing their own scribble dude story. Allow your little one to make their scribble and then help them to get the scribble animation by using eyes, hands and legs. The eyes can be made with stickers or googly eyes and the hands and legs can be done by the child or you can help them. Just simple black stick figure lines work great. Have fun!

## **Ages 4-6**

### **Paper Line Sculptures**

This activity is similar to the wire sculpture activity but maybe more accessible for younger children. Kids simply use strips of colored paper or patterned paper and experiment with how they can make shapes and glue them down to a surface. I like the way they used black base here to help show the different kinds of space and form created by the twists of the paper lines. This one is a winner!

### **Take Your Line for a Walk**

This lesson designed for elementary ages involves learning vocabulary for different types of lines. Kids can make straight, curvy, wavy, diagonal, broken and any other lines they can imagine! Give the child a large piece of paper and instruct them to “take their lines for a walk”. Lines should start at the top of the page and end at the bottom. It’s a great way to teach the concept of vertical and horizontal. After creating their different styles of lines with black marker they can color in all the different sections and see how the colors interact with each other.

## **Ages 5-8**

### **Paul Klee Illustrations**

<https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/paul-klee-art-lesson/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xsRyjT0mtE>

This activity is inspired by a painting by Paul Klee and a book entitled “The Cat and the Bird” named after Klee’s painting. Kids can use the YouTube read aloud as inspiration and then design their own cityscape skyline using a straight edge to create angles and tall buildings. After creating their shapes and skyline with black marker they can then watercolor the shapes in different colors, discovering the contrast between warm and cool and bringing the lines to life.

### **Graphic Squares**

With these dramatic graphic squares, kids can learn even more vocabulary related line, and understand the concept of pattern and doodle. After creating a grid of squares, children can create different patterns within each section choosing colors that contrast to create a mosaic of lines in pattern. It may be helpful to show them different kinds of patterns for inspiration.

### **Wild Wire Sculpture**

This activity is so cool! It can work well for kindergarten as well as older children. Kids use a scrap Styrofoam base and apply scrap pieces of wire or pipe cleaners. Pipe cleaners can be connected together to create longer pieces of wire. This is a fantastic way to bring the two dimensional into the three-dimensional and to learn about sculpture with young children.

### **Contour Lines**

Inspired by the work of an artist named Yellena, kids can create bright neon art works that are luminous against black paper. This activity involves the creation of underwater scenes using Crayola Color sticks on black paper. Pastels would also work for this activity. Kids are inspired by the shapes of jellyfish, sea life and sea plants and can let their imaginations wander in creating contour line designs of an underwater scene.

### Organic Shapes line collage

This activity introduces the idea of organic shapes/lines . Kids can create an organic line with the edge of a ripped piece of paper. They trace the rough organic line onto their paper creating a strong shape. Half of the paper will remain a solid organic shape and the other half will be filled with parallel contour repeated lines. This artwork creates an interesting effect and emphasizes contrast.

### **Ages 8-10**

#### Contour Shoes

I love this one! This is a fun way to introduce the idea of contour lines and continuous lines drawing. Kids can take off their shoes, get comfortable and begin drawing. Instruct kids to look carefully at the different kinds of shapes and try to draw the shoe's shapes by using only the lines they see. With this type of drawing kids don't use shading or coloring but simply the contour lines to create the image. This lesson is challenging and fun and makes great art pieces in the end!

#### Underground World

A great one for older children, this activity involves using lines and surrealist imagination to create an underground world. Kids can create the horizon at the top of their picture and then imagine the tunnels, spaces and scenes of an underground space. This activity involves only paper and marker. Instruct your child to fill the entire underground world with detailed lines.

#### Doodle Names

This activity involves kids creating their names in block letters and filling the negative space with detailed patterns. This is a fun one for kids to express their identity around their names and discover line and pattern. It's also a great way to learn about positive and negative space in art making. Just paper, marker and a straight edge for this one.

#### Busy Head Drawing

<https://www.n8w.com/>

<http://www.shinebritezamorano.com/search/label/line>

This is another activity for older kids with more advanced skills. Inspired by the art of Natalie Williams in this activity kids draw a profile of a head and fill it in with shapes lines and patterns that express thoughts and emotions. This activity could even be a form of art therapy for children who are struggling with particular feelings thoughts. This activity uses paper, marker and pastels.

If your art kid is interested in taking a deeper dive check out the link below:

KQED Breaks it down for the big kids (7+)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDePyEFT1gQ>

Please check us out again on 11/14 as we explore shapes and forms as art concepts. Stay tuned to the [Student Parent Programs Facebook page](#) and the [UMass Student Parent Programs events page](#) for more events and programming for student parents.