

Serendipity, Issue #3

Families

Artist-Mary Cassatt

Art Element: Plein Air Painting

Exercise 1: Introduce Mary Cassatt, an American artist who lived before Georgia O'Keefe and Pablo Picasso. Most of the time she lived in Paris, France. She was an impressionist painter who created her paintings outside (plein air painting) using bright colors to show what grass and flowers and fields looked like in the sunlight. Impressionists used big brush strokes and didn't worry about all the detail. Her favorite subjects to paint were her family and friends just doing ordinary things.

Complete the Observation Exercise with *one* of the following paintings. Talk about what they notice in these paintings. Spend time each day "reading" the painting. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Guide your child into looking for small details each time. Write these thoughts down so you can revisit them. Continue to look at a different painting by Mary Cassatt each week. The paints included here as well as her complete works can be found on marycassatt.org.





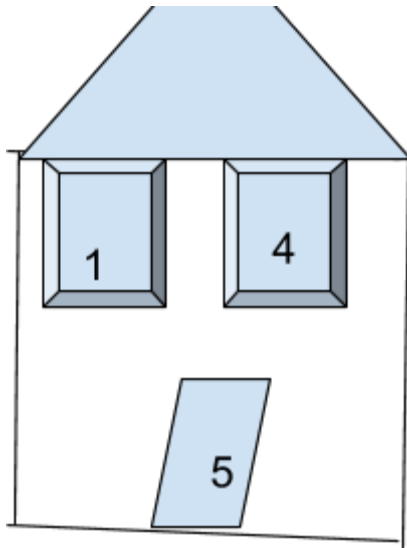


Painting-Here.com

Exercise 2: **Art**- While your family is outside playing, gardening, or just exploring, have your child do a plein air picture of what your family is doing. Use a clipboard as a desk and choose either tempera, crayons, colored pencils, or markers to create the picture.

Exercise 3: **Math**-Exploring Families of Numbers

Number Families or Number Bonds are mental pictures of the relationship between a **number** and the parts that combine to make it. For instance, 4-1-5 are a family because $4 + 1 = 5$, $1 + 4 = 5$, $5 - 1 = 4$, and $5 - 4 = 1$. Let's give this concept a more emotional tie by creating houses for our number families to live in. Have your child draw a neighborhood with three houses. In each house write the "family" that lives there. For example in the first house we will write the numbers 1, 4, and 5



Below each house have your child write the various ways these numbers relate to each other: $1 + 4 = 5$, $4 + 1 = 5$, $5 - 1 = 4$, $5 - 4 = 1$

Remember, at these young ages the imagination is prime and the idea of family and friends is so important. If you can make this neighborhood seem like a story, your child will remember them much easier than if you just teach it as abstract numbers.

Exercise 3: Science-Animal Families

We live in families, we have just explored number families, and now we will look at animal families. This is a research opportunity for your children to use non-fiction books and charts to discover the names of the males, females, babies, and groups of animals in which they are interested. Using the chart on the next page, take your child to the library and find the information to fill out the chart. You will be modeling how to use an index in a non-fiction book. You will also be modeling perseverance as you search for the information. This can be done over several library visits.



