

Masterpiece Of The Month Letter Home

Hi Mom and Dad,

Today we had an art parent come in to tell us about Vincent Van Gogh and his painting, "Starry Night." We learned that Van Gogh put lots of emotion into his paintings. He was a very emotional person who never had lots of confidence. Ask me why he just signed "Vincent" on his paintings. Also, although he made over 1700 paintings and drawings, ask me how many he sold in his lifetime! He never knew how much we would appreciate him.

We talked about our own feelings, and how we express them. Like Van Gogh, we tried expressing our feelings in our artwork. Using different kinds of music, we used different colors and different drawing styles.

You might have fun trying this at home: put on some music, and sit down with your child and draw together. See if you can draw the way the music makes you feel. Sometimes, drawing can be a great way to "get out" those feelings that are hard to show otherwise. You could also try looking at the night sky and try to see it through Van Gogh's eyes.

Have fun sharing a little "Starry Night" creativity with your child!



Fun Facts:

1. Born in Holland 1853, Van Gogh's early paintings were very dark and serious. Later he moved to Paris and met the Impressionist painters. He tried using brighter colors and short brush strokes. Soon his paintings revealed his highly emotional personality, with passionate brushstrokes, colors, and lines.
2. He did over 872 paintings in just 10 years, but died at the age of 37 having sold only one painting.
3. He lost about ten teeth from malnutrition. He spent the allowance his brother sent on painting materials rather than on sufficient food.
4. He carried red and blue chalk to draw on walls to explain his ideas. Friends would keep extra paper around to spread on tables so he would not draw on the walls and furniture.
5. His works were signed Vincent because he believed, and rightly so, that Van Gogh was too difficult for people to pronounce. He also thought Van Gogh made him sound arrogant.