

Form Drawing

Form Drawing Books

Find live links to purchase these at <http://waldorfcurriculum.com/Articles/FD.html>.

- Form Drawing for the Homeschooling Parent – from Waldorf Without Walls
- Beginning with Form Drawing – from Live Education!
- Form Drawing for Beginners – from Christopherus Homeschool Resources
- Form Drawing: Grades One through Four
by Laura Embrey-Stine & Ernst Schuberth
- Form Drawing by Hans R. Niederhauser & Margaret Frohlich
- The Write Approach book 1 & 2
- Creative Form Drawing books 1, 2 & 3 by Rudolf Kutzli
- Form Drawing by Arne Breidvik
- Dynamic Drawing by Hermann Kirchner

Ask Kyta

An important thing to remember when presenting form drawing is that the form which appears on the paper is in fact a crystallization of the movement made by the person drawing the form. It's very important then to make sure you draw the form in a sequence of physical movements before you sit down to draw the form on paper. Miss Michelle, first grade Waldorf teacher suggests that you do the following:

- Trace the form in the air with the whole arm
- Trace the form in the air with the right finger and one eye open.
- Trace the form in the air with both eyes closed.
- Trace the form on paper with the right finger.
- Draw the form in your book below the form drawing (mom made) three times.

Additional suggestions –

trace the form on the ground with your foot

trace it on your partner's back

trace the form with your finger in a tray of sand

For practice work use LARGE sheets of newsprint and stick beeswax crayons

or a slate and slate pencil (Colonial Williamsburg)

<http://www.williamsburgmarketplace.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductView?langId=-1&storeId=10001&catalogId=12117&categoryId=14011>

or window crayons (Nova Natural)

<http://www.novanatural.com/s.nl/it.A/id.1146/.f>

The First Day – see also Eric Fairman's Path of Discovery, volume 1 grade 1

It is very important part for first grade teachers to make sure that before they attempt any form drawing lessons the children can understand and differentiate between a straight and a curved line. Many movement games and exercises allow the children to experience these two core forms. The straight line usually represents the human being, standing straight and tall. When a child understands this the teacher introduces the curved line - usually by making an arch with her arm, swinging it above, below, in front, behind, to the left and to the right. The curved line represents the world around us. Children really need to fully grasp this sense before they attempt writing/drawing forms.

Additionally, the children should be doing a series of movements - first of all asked to stand straight with their arms raised straight above their heads - long and tall. Let them really understand the concept of "straight". The same is equally important when learning about the curved line. A wonderful tool for drawing curved lines is a ribbon stick.

Why Form Drawing?

It's important to note that when form drawing all four of the lower senses are being used and developed in the child. These are spatial orientation, body geography, inner visualization and observation. Different forms have specific sense connections. This is why when working on form drawing it's really the QUALITY of the work versus the quantity. Some of these include:

- Woven forms: they work with forward-backward, estimation, self movement, balancing the parts, spatial orientation and wakefulness.
- Geometric: furthers math skills and spatial orientation.
- Spirals: work with point periphery and moving between them.
- Symmetry: especially helpful for children who reverse letters, do not have above and below established or do not let the letters go beyond the line of writing.
- Running forms: helpful in gaining better small motor movement along with small motor and body geography skills.
- Double running forms: increases the development of balance and self-movement along with small motor and body geography skills.
- Negative space: helpful in developing inner visualization, strong self-movement and balance and negative and positive space.
- Metamorphic and completion: increases imagination, flexibility in thinking and social skills of appreciation of the other.
- Balances the temperaments.

Note on forcing the letters (and bypassing form drawing)

"It is thoroughly unnatural to require a child during the sixth or seventh year to merely copy the signs that we, in this advanced stage of civilization, now use for reading and writing. If you consider the letters we now use for reading and writing, you will realize that there is no connection between these letters and what a child of seven is naturally disposed to do. Remember, that when human beings first began to write they used painted or drawn signs that reproduced things or occurrences in the surrounding world. Or they wrote from will impulses, so that forms of writing expressed processes of the will - cuneiform characters, for example. Today's entirely abstract form of letters, which the eye must gaze at or the hand form, arose from picture writing. When we confront a young child with such letters, we are bringing something alien, something that in no way conforms to the child's nature. Let us be clear about what it means to "push" a foreign body into a child's organism. It is just as though a child, from the very earliest years, were being habituated to wearing very small clothes that do not fit, and therefore damage the child's organism. Today observation tends to be superficial, and people are even unaware of the damage done to a child's organism by simply introducing reading and writing in a wrong way."

- Rudolf Steiner, The Spiritual Ground of Education

Form Drawing Article

Notes on a Form Drawing Course by Margarit Junemann

<http://www.waldorflibrary.org/Clearing%20House/Spring%201986a.pdf>

Printable Lessons

"Castle Ramparts" from Beginning with Form Drawing – first grade

<http://www.live-education.com/Curriculum/SampleLesson?lesson=11>

"Form Drawing" from Nature Stories for the Second Year – second grade

<http://www.live-education.com/Curriculum/SampleLesson?lesson=18>

"Form Drawings Using Iranian Motifs" from The Ancient Culture in Persia – fifth grade

<http://www.live-education.com/Curriculum/SampleLesson?lesson=36>

Form Drawing Verse

(Hold up thumb, index and middle fingers of right hand so that arm is straight)

*Three companions who always serve
To help me draw straight lines,
To help me draw curves.*