Greetings kids, parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and neighbors!

Welcome to week 2 of our Minis at Home newsletter. Grownups: please work on projects together with your children. Your participation is important! Minis at Home offers hints and tips for ways to create art as a twosome or a family.

This week’s theme = NATURE PORTRAITS

Faces are very special! And the best thing about faces is that every person’s face is different. There are billions of people on the planet (ask your grownup to tell you how many that is!) and it’s very unusual to get two people you see mixed up. Even the faces of identical twins have very small differences.

Did you know that at one week old (that’s really teeny!) babies can recognize their mothers’ faces? By 3 months-old (that’s still pretty teeny), babies know the difference between people they know and strangers.

Can you point to your hair, nose, ears, eyes, eyebrows and mouth? These parts of your face are called your features.

What part of your face do you see with?
What part of your face do you smell with?
What part of your face do you hear with?
What part of your face do you taste with?

Four of our five senses—seeing, smelling, hearing and tasting—involves our faces. So, you couldn’t recognize your friends and family without using your face. You couldn’t hear your dog bark. Even worse, you wouldn’t be able to enjoy pizza!

Today, we’re going to have a lot of fun with faces. First, let’s get to know you!

- What color are your eyes?
- Is your nose long or round?
- Do you have freckles?
- What color is your skin and hair?
- Is your hair straight or curly?
Activity: EXPLORING FACES AND FEELINGS

Look in a mirror and make some silly, happy, angry, and sad faces. These different kids of faces are called expressions. Look at your grownup (and if you have a brother or sister handy, they can play, too) and exchange expressions. If you make your eyes big and round, how does it look? What about sticking out your tongue? Make a face like you just tasted a sour lemon or some yucky medicine. Now imagine your grownup just handed you a piece of chocolate (or something else that you really like). How does your expression change?

Your face can tell others how you might be feeling. Ask your grownup to Google “emojis” and look together at all the different expressions.

What is a happy face? What is a sad face? What is an angry face? Make some faces at your grownup and ask them to make some at you. Can they tell how you’re feeling even if you don’t use any words? Can you tell how they are feeling?

Craft: NATURE PORTRAITS

Do you know what a portrait is? It’s a picture of somebody. A self-portrait is a picture that you make of yourself. Sometimes a portrait looks like a real person and sometimes it doesn’t. Sometimes artists want their portraits to show how people feel.

Here’s a fun face craft. Before you start, you’ll need to collect some materials.

Take a walk outside with your grownup and collect some things you find in nature such as leaves in all sizes, shapes and colors, sticks, acorns, seed pods, pine cones, flowers, vines, fruit, seeds, sticks, pine needles.

Have your grownup help you cut out an oval from cardboard or white card stock. If you like, you can color the cardboard or card stock to match your skin color, or you can choose any color you want.
Choose what you will use for your eyes, ears, mouth, nose, hair and chin, and eyebrows.

Arrange the nature items on the cardboard. Once you are happy with how your face looks, you may glue them down or you may choose not to so you can change your faces whenever you want.

Practice making happy, sad, angry or excited faces. Can your grown-up guess what your face is feeling?

If your grownup takes pictures of each face you make, you can print them out and then glue them into a sketchbook. If you have lots of pictures of faces, you might want to call your new book Facebook!

**Literacy: POEM TO SHARE**

**Food Face**
by Constance Del Nero

Dark grape eyes
Big pear nose
Where Arcimboldo
got his ideas
nobody knows!

Squash, olives, figs,
peas, apricots, and plums
(some of these I don’t like
but some are very yum!)

An apple and a peach for cheeks
cherry lips and chestnut chin
When I look at this man’s face
all I want to do is grin.

Here is a funny nature portrait by a man named Giuseppe Arcimboldo. You pronounce his name Ar-cheem’-bold-oh.

Say it slowly: **AR CHEEM’ BOLD OH!**
(Bonus if you can roll your R–errrrrrrr)

**Arcimboldo** was an Italian artist born almost 500 years ago!

He liked to make portraits out of fruits and vegetables, flowers, animals, even books! Some of his pictures even work upside down.

Ask your grownup to Google his name and look at images of his pictures together. See if you can name everything you see.
Activity: SING AND CLAP

If you're happy and you know it, touch your mouth (repeat twice)
If you're happy and you know it, your face will really show it
If you're happy and you know it touch your mouth (repeat with hair, eyes, nose, chin)

Activity: POINT AND SHOW

This is the circle that is my head
*make large circle with both hands*
These are my eyes with which I see
*point to eyes*
This is my mouth with which words are said
*point to mouth*
This is my nose that's a part of me
*point to nose*

This is the hair that grows on my head
*point to hair*
And this is my hat all pretty and red
*place hands on head, fingers pointing up and touching*

Activity: FACE BINGO

Use family photos or find pictures online of various facial features. For extra fun, add an animal feature or two.

Print them out and put them on a grid. You can make a few different grids if you want to play a game or just use the bingo card to name features.

Using the same pictures, size to playing card size, and print them on card stock. Cut into playing card size and make a deck. Turn each picture over and name what you see.

Let your child identify each facial feature.
Literacy: RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Snuggle up in a big comfy chair and read together

Marvelous Me: Inside and Out, Lisa Marie Bullard

The Feelings Book, Todd Parr

What I like About Me, Allia Zobel Nolan

All About Faces, La Zoo

My Five Senses, Aliki

See you next week with issue 3 of Minis at Home!

Share your work on https://www.instagram.com/minimastersaam/ or email pictures to Ann Hansen ahansen@academyartmuseum.org or Constance Del Nero cdelnero@academyartmuseum.org

Please Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/minimastersacademy