

ART APPRECIATION

Communication Tips

- Use people's name
- Make eye contact
- Use gestures and other non-verbal forms of communication
- Allow time for the person to process the information
- Speak slowly and clearly, introducing one idea only at a time
- Be comfortable with silences

Engage with the art work

- Start with a simple question that promotes conversation
- Be guided by the participants
- If a comment is made, engage and flow from that comment
- If no contribution is made, ask a simple question "Mary, do you like this?"
- Try to always ask a question "How does this make you feel?"
- Always finish on a simple note such as "What title would you give this piece?"
- Do not volunteer the title of the piece
- If emotional ... validate/acknowledge ...divert

Questions to start the conversation

- "What do you see in this painting?"
- "Does this work say anything to you?"
- "What does it remind you of?"
- "How does this make you feel?"
- "What colour stands out for you?"
- "What title would you give this piece?"

Moving onto another piece of art work

- Summarise at the end of each piece
- Bring the threads of the conversation and opinions together before moving on to the next piece
- Thank the participants for sharing and their open discussion
- Try not to compare one piece with another
- Only reference the piece in front of the participants
- If a comparison is made from a participant, acknowledge and bring thoughts and focus back to the piece you are currently viewing