

# **Cobb Business**

## **Art school caters to children**

### **Vinings facility teaches toddlers as well as teens**

BYLINE: LESLIE EVERTON BRICE

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From preschool Picassos to teenage Titians, the Vinings School of Art caters to the budding artist in children.

The school has classes for kids as young as 18 months and up to 16 years.

Kara Kapczynski, who owns the school with husband Erik Dorr, says it was an immediate hit with kids and parents since it started classes in May.

"It was popular from the beginning," she said. "We got a real variety of kids during the summer. A lot were just looking for a fun activity. Now we're also getting kids who really enjoy art and working with their hands."

Kapczynski, who has two young children of her own, says kids of all ages are fascinated by what they create.

"We offer all kinds of art experiences," she said. "Our classes are taught by experienced teachers, many with art degrees or working on art degrees. I check all the portfolios before hiring."

The school has three classrooms, painted in bright cheerful colors. Class sizes are limited to 10, but most have from three to seven students, so lots of one-on-one time with the teacher is guaranteed.

"We believe in the importance of nurturing artistic talents in children from an early age," said Kapczynski.

Vinings School of Art offers one-hour or two-hour classes. Moms or dads are free to stay and watch their kids, or drop them off. Monthly programs with one or two classes a week are available. Children can drop in for single sessions if space is available.

The school also offers birthday parties, with projects chosen by the child. In addition, the school partners with Studio Atlanta, a nearby dance studio, "so the children have art and dance. And they're

always escorted between classes."

Last month, the art school also started offering a language arts component: Spanish classes.

"We start with the toddler Spanish, and we also have regular Spanish for kids who do know at least a little," said Kapczynski. "It's a very interactive class. We encourage speaking out loud."

The Spanish classes are taught by Pamela Villafane, a native speaker who also has a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish and Latin American literature. Villafane is working on a master's degree.

Even though the art activities are fun and needn't be anything more than that, the school is a good starting point for kids who may want more from art.

Older students, from age 6 on, are working on projects that will be submitted for the Youth Art Connection's Youth Arts & Crafts Sale.

#### VININGS SCHOOL OF ART

- Where: 1675 Cumberland Parkway, Suite 102 in Ivy Walk, Smyrna
- Phone: 678-213-4278
- On the Web: [www.viningschoolofart.com](http://www.viningschoolofart.com)