

Pint-sized painters: Vinings school offers art programs for children

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VININGS - From the time it opened in April 2006, the **Vinings School of Art** has sought to offer children something different besides the cookies and nap time they typically get at daycare centers.

Located in the One Ivy Walk shopping center at 1675 Cumberland Parkway, suite 102, near Atlanta Road in Vinings, the school is offering summer programs to toddlers who traditionally haven't been allowed to sign up for summer programs because of their young age.

Children as young as 18 months and older can take fine art classes, including painting, drawing and sculpture. Spanish and French language classes are also offered. The school does not require parents to be present during classes, but welcome them or nannies to participate.

This summer, toddlers can enroll in the ongoing summer camp from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Options include \$175 for a five-day session that features a daily music class or \$185 for a five-day session that includes a daily fitness class at nearby Studio Atlanta Dance. The summer camp ends Sept. 4.

There's also a one-hour art class option for \$15, four one-hour classes for \$50 and 8-hour classes for \$85. All classes are taught by experienced and college-educated instructors. Classroom size is limited to about four to 10 students. The art school offers classes for older kids and adults as well.

School founder Kara Kapczynski said the toddlers tend to pick up on instructions quickly. During one week this summer, students learned about nineteenth century Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh.

"The toddlers are capable of doing it. They're capable of holding a brush and painting," said Kapczynski.

"For toddlers, it is limited mostly to things like painting, gluing and things that they can work with using their hands. They love to paint. If their paint gets on the floor, we clean it up. A lot of parents have hardwood floors or rugs and don't want to have them paint."

Starting Aug. 24, toddlers and other children can enroll in an after-school program conducted at the art school.

Shayna Abbas of Smyrna has enrolled her three-year-old son, Ashton Abbas, at the school since spring break.

"He has so much fun," Abbas said. "He talks about it all the way home and is so proud of his work."

For more information about the **Vinings School of Art**, call [\(678\) 213-4278](tel:6782134278) or visit www.viningschoolofart.com.

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