

# OBSERVE

## Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil & Eraser
- Coloured Pencils or Oil Pastels
- Ruler



Observational drawing is drawing what you see. It's as simple and as complicated as that. It can be a flower, a person, a still life, or a landscape. It's drawing what you see in front of you as realistically and as true to life as possible.

**STEP 1:** Set your paper and art materials down in front of the item you want to draw. When you look at something with the intent of drawing it, you tend to look more carefully than usual. You truly see the shapes, the patterns, the perspective (art of drawing solid objects on a two-dimensional surface so as to give the right impression of their height, width, depth, and position), the colours, the shadows, the contour lines (outlines), and how all of the details interact.

**STEP 2:** Sketch the overall form loosely, and as large as possible, on the paper, then go in and define the contours and shapes. Look back and forth from the object to your paper, as you translate what you see to what you are drawing.

**STEP 3:** Once you have the big picture outlines of your drawing subject on paper, you can begin to add details, shading, patterns, and colours as desired. Use your coloured pencils and/or oil pastels to do this.

**TIP:** If your child is having trouble getting started, you can talk them through the shapes and details they are seeing and how they might translate these from three-dimensional forms in space to a two-dimensional drawing on paper.



If drawing a simple shape, such as an orange, you can say...

“What shape does that orange look like to you?”

“Yes, the orange looks round, like a sphere or circle. How big are you going to draw the circle on your paper?”

Take a picture and share your artwork with us by using the hashtag #ArtatHomeGP on Facebook or Instagram.

## HAPPY CREATING!

Art at Home

The  
Carlstrom  
Family  
Green  
Space