

NGV Early Years

Tips for visiting the NGV with groups of young children



NGV Early Years

NGV INTERNATIONAL
THE IAN POTTER CENTRE:
NGV AUSTRALIA

Before your visit

- Familiarise yourself with the exhibitions that will be on display when you visit and determine which might be of greatest interest to your group.
- View the NGV Schools program or talk to our bookings staff or an NGV Educator about program options for your group. A range of learning resources to help you prepare for your visit is available on the NGV website.
- Bookings are required for all staffed and self-guided groups.
- Plan to come to the Gallery in the morning, if possible. Children are less tired so are likely to gain more from their visit.
- A meaningful and comfortable visit for most young children (and many adults) might be 30–90 minutes. Include some structured activity for longer visits.
- Look at photos of the NGV with your children to get them excited about seeing the National Gallery of Victoria's iconic architecture and works of art.
- Talk about what they might see in an art gallery, such as paintings, sculpture, photography, films, and installations.
- Familiarise your children with behaviour appropriate to the Gallery. Enjoy looking at the works of art but help us look after them by not touching. Enjoy the gallery spaces but please do not disturb other visitors by running or shouting.
- Prior to arriving, check that you know which venue your group is booked at, The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia or NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road. Familiarise yourself with the location of the school's entrance.

During your visit

- On arrival please register your group with staff at the desk.
- Free cloak facilities (lockable cupboards) are available for schools. Teachers will be issued with a key on arrival and registration. Bring lunches in tubs rather than individual bags.
- Allow adequate travel time especially during peak hour. Arrive early to allow time for cloak and to visit the restrooms before your designated class time. Educators are often scheduled for consecutive sessions so will not be able to make up lost time at the end of your session.
- Although we encourage close looking, remind children to maintain a sensible distance from works of art.
- No food or drink is permitted in the galleries.
- Allow time for snack breaks and lunch in your excursion schedule. We have a wonderful fully-fenced garden where you can eat at NGV International. In the case of bad weather, the Great Hall at NGV International may be used if it is not required for an event. For visitors to NGV Australia, there is an undercover area in the Atrium, outside the Gallery, in the Federation Square complex.
- Allow time after your class for more exploration in the gallery spaces. This allows children to re-visit a favourite work of art or to see other pieces not included in the program.
- Remember that you don't have to see the whole gallery in one visit. Walk around the galleries, but encourage stopping, sitting, and talking about at least two of works of art in depth.
- Our experienced educators will pace the session according to the needs of the students. This will generally mean focusing on a select group of works in some depth.

After your visit

- Reflect on what you have experienced at the Gallery.
- Ask children to remember and recall their excursion. Ask questions such as: What was your favourite work of art? Why?
- Discuss why galleries collect art. Ask whether children collect things. Have children bring in their own collections and display it by creating an exhibition.
- Make art! Create a gallery wall in your centre dedicated to showcasing your children's art.
- Look at a reproduction of a work of art that you saw during your visit. Have children draw part of the picture focusing on one object or altering something from the work of art.
- Write a list of words that come to mind or a poem about the work either as a group, or individually and followed by sharing.
- Compare two works of art. How are they similar to each other? How are they different?
- Imagine your own title for a work of art. Have children suggest alternate titles.
- Share your student's work with NGV Schools. We are always interested in seeing what students have written or created in response to their visit to the NGV!

