



Loved Safe & Heard

Competition Tip Sheet Early Childhood



This tip sheet offers some ideas for engaging children in the Loved, Safe & Heard Art Competition. Before introducing specific art activities, we encourage children to share their own ideas and inspirations. This empowers them to take ownership of their learning, express their unique perspectives, and build confidence in their creative voice. When children lead with their imagination, they are more deeply engaged, and the learning becomes more meaningful and authentic. By valuing their ideas first, we foster a sense of agency and respect that aligns with the principles of Children's Rights Queensland.

How to support little ones (Ages Birth-6)

1. Start with Storytelling & Conversation

Before beginning art, talk about simple rights like:

- “You have the right to feel safe.”
- “You have the right to be listened to.”
- “You have the right to play and rest.”

2. Choose an artwork theme that sparks JOY

Here are a few age-friendly options:

“The Hug That Stretches Across Queensland”

- Use fingerpainting, sponges, or fabric scraps to make rainbow arms.
- Help children draw themselves and their friends being hugged.
- Add floating hearts and smiling faces.

“Garden of Rights”

- Children can paint or glue flowers with big, colourful petals (perhaps even use Australian Native flowers in the artwork)
- Add words around the artwork flower garden (e.g., “Safe,” “Play”)
- Use mixed media such as recycled lids or stickers to create the ‘garden of rights’.

“The Umbrella of Love”

- Cut out a large umbrella shape and let children decorate it with crayons or collage.
- Under the umbrella, children can draw themselves and people they love.
- Add raindrops with words like “unkind,” “scared”— show how the umbrella protects them.





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3. Make It Sensory and Fun

Use materials like glitter, sandpaper, cotton wool, soft fabrics, or clay so children can explore textures while they create.

4. Ask Simple Questions During Art Time:

- “How does it feel when someone hugs you?”
- “What makes you feel safe?”
- “Who do you love?”

5. Celebrate Their Voice

Even if a child’s drawing is abstract—ask them to tell you about it. Their words matter! When a child creates a drawing, it’s important to honour their voice and perspective. This approach supports children’s language development, creativity, and confidence. Feel free to add a sticky note of their words if you wish. We encourage you to avoid writing directly on children’s drawings to preserve the child’s original expression without adult influence, and to respect the child’s ownership of their work. This helps maintain the integrity of the child’s artwork while still capturing their voice and ideas.

