

Section 1: Elements of Art - LINE

A line is a point moving in space. Lines can be straight or curved.

A line is a mark made by an instrument as it is drawn across a surface.

- Types of lines- straight, curved, zigzag, broken, wavy, dotted, heavy, light, thick, thin, vertical, horizontal, diagonal, parallel, perpendicular, meandering, and spiraling.
- A line can come together to make a shape. A contour line is a line, or an outline, that makes a shape and separates it from the space around it.
- Lines are used to express feelings- strong, weak, tired, energetic, excited, silly, angry, happy, sad, calm, confused, shy, lazy, frustrated, clumsy, graceful, etc.
- Lines can create movement in a picture.

See Geometric Insets in Section 11- Montessori Lessons. A line is used around the inset or inside the frame to make a shape. Various types of lines are used to fill the shape. The first exercise with the insets is a straight line from left to right.

Line Tracing & Line Book- Age 3+

- Preparation: Make cards (approx. 3" x 7") with various lines (straight, curved, zigzag, broken). Print the word below the line. Laminate the cards. Thin paper the same size as the cards.
- Process: Place a paper on the card and trace the line. When all the types of lines have been done, staple into a Line Book. The pages may be done one or two at a time and kept in the child's work folder until all are done to be made onto a book.
- Extensions: horizontal, parallel, vertical, diagonal, curly, spiral, thick, thin, etc.

See also Cutting Strips (cutting on a line) in Section 11- Montessori Lessons.

Straight Line Design

Use a white board or chalk board. Say, "A line is a point moving in space." Make a "straight" line and a "curved" line. Draw lines in the air. Give each child a 6" cardboard strip (straight edge). Hold it up to visually line up with straight lines around the room. Name things with straight lines.

- Supplies: Tray with white paper, ruler or cardboard, marker, colored pencils or crayons.
- Process: Place newspaper on the table, paper on the newspaper. Remove the cap and put it on the end of the marker or in a small container. Place the ruler any place on the paper. Hold it down firmly with one hand and draw along the edge to make a straight line. Continue making lines in any direction. Find the shapes you made. Color them with colored pencils or crayons.

Meandering Line Design

- Supplies: One marker, white paper, colored pencils or crayons.
- Process: Place the tip of the marker on the paper. Make it move in coils and curves all over the paper without stopping or picking it up. Say "A line is a dot moving in space." Exaggerate placing the point and then moving it on the paper "like a skater on ice" or "like a car moving on a curvy road." Find the shapes you made. Color the shapes with colored pencils or crayons.