



Have a plan -

Go to the workshop, the entire workshop and listen and take notes and do the entire project.

Then... do your own research (Embellish, don't change!)

Stage a "sit in" on another docent's class

Spy on the drying racks

Find a hook - tie it to something they know - bring props if you can

Write notes on the board if it isn't there already

Start Strong -

Be on time - this means an hour in advance

Have everything set up when they arrive

Recruit and train your helpers

The first step is usually the most important... you can't put a face on a pinhead!

Demonstrate, but don't live in the front of the room... walk around and see what's up

It is not about Refrigerator Aesthetics - it's about the Experience

Keep the prep to a minimum - let them do everything they can possibly do

Hands Off - entirely

Make it special, make it fun, keep it relaxed and safe

No Judgment - (not even good ones)

That goes for you too - no disparaging words

Alternatives: "I see some beautiful work in this room!" "You really listened to the instructions"

"What is your favorite part of this project?"

Careful of assumptions...maybe that "bunny" is a toad

Frustration is Natural

Remind them that we are "practicing" and "trying"

Art is a teachable skill! Acknowledge that it is tricky - listen to them, summarize, ask

Don't "cop out" with "there are no mistakes". Demonstrate, explain, brainstorm a solution

Replace "there are no mistakes" with "It's ok to make mistakes"

Copying is Good

Maybe not in math... but in art, that's how even the masters learned.

Help kids "notice" what the artist achieved... point out the shadow, the scale, color scheme

Be a Clock Watcher

Work out in your head how much time you can give a task, know how to quiet the kids for next

Don't lose the crowd by taking too long between steps

Do Unto Others -

clean up after yourself, set up next docent for succes