

EMBROIDERERS' GUILD OF AMERICA, INC.

TEACHING CHILDREN PROGRAM

LESSON PLAN AGES 6 – 9

This lesson plan has been developed to assist our chapters when introducing embroidery to children. We encourage each chapter to develop programs that will best suit the group of children that they are working with.

First, decide on the project that will be made and make it fun! It could be a library book tote, backpack or pillow; anything that would appeal to both a girl and a boy. Whatever project is decided should be small and simple so that the item can be finished within the allotted time of the class and also hold the children's interest not allowing for boredom. We suggest a ground fabric of felt, wool felt or a pre-finished napkin.

When teaching embroidery to children ages 6 – 9 it is important to have each child unleash their own creativity. Allow each child to draw a simple design onto the fabric – this could be their initial, name, flower, baseball, basketball, peace sign, sun, star, heart or even a doodle – try to keep the designs simple and large so that the emphasis can be on the embroidery. Bring a supply of designs that have been cut out to the class as some children would rather trace the design onto the fabric versus drawing it free-hand. Fun-shaped cookie cutters can also be traced.

Once the design has been drawn, let each child select the threads that they will use to embellish. Perle cotton 5, in pre-cut lengths, is a good fiber to use. Bring colors that would appeal to children and also have a supply of size 18 or 20 tapestry needles, needle threaders and embroidery scissors. Also bring some fun fibers, buttons, pony beads and/or sequins.

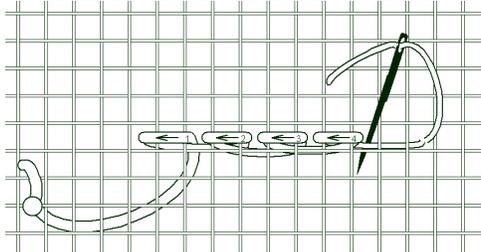
Keep the stitches simple and basic. The following stitches are suggested: backstitch, chain, cross, French knot, stem and straight. Make copies of the stitch directions so that each child will have a set. It is helpful to have as many chapter mentors as possible and limit the number of children at each table so that the mentor can give as much guidance to each child as possible. Encourage each child and offer praise often. Keep in mind that holding a needle and using it to stitch is a new experience for many of the children. Be prepared to rethread needles, untangle thread and make knots.

After the stitching is completed, the item should be finished into the pre-determined project by a chapter mentor with help from each child (i.e., sides sewn to make a tote/backpack, cording/handles attached, pillow inserted, etc.). Again, compliment each child and their project.

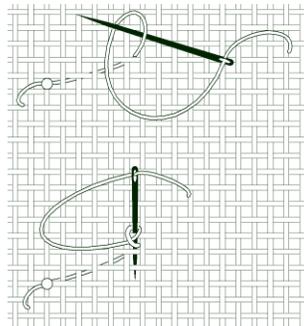
We strongly encourage our chapters to search the Internet as it is a valuable resource with educational videos, stitch guides and inspirational free patterns for teaching embroidery to children.

Stitch Diagrams:

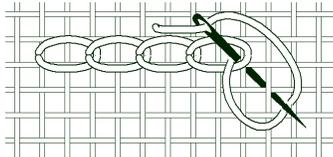
Back stitch



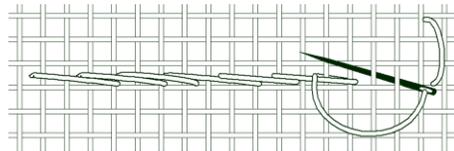
French knot



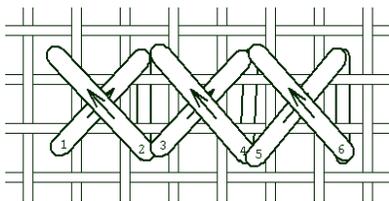
Chain



Stem



Cross stitch



Straight Stitch

