Elements and Principles of the Visual Arts

Line: Thick, thin, wavy, straight, soft, hard, vertical, horizontal, diagonal, radiating, jagged, parallel, angry, calm, happy, sad, etc.

Shape: Geometric, organic, rectangle, square, circle, round, angular, curvy, fluid, symmetrical and spiral, etc.

Color: Primary, secondary, complementary, warm, cool, light, dark, bright, etc.

Texture: rough, smooth, bumpy, fuzzy, prickly, slippery, etc.

Space: Two-dimensional, three dimensional, foreground, middle ground, background, overlap, etc.

Structural Principles: unity, rhythm proportion, design, balance harmony, contrast, and repetition, etc.

Excerpt from the article “Why Art is Important for Young Children,” by S. Wright in July of 2010