



Team Members Reasons 'Why' they work for artKids

Jenna Poore, Assistant Director, Co-founder, artKids (8 years employment)

Why do I work at artKids? I have a passion for education, especially visual arts education. I love working with children and seeing their growth in skills and confidence in artmaking. I like that I can use my expertise in teaching/education and my visual arts background together.

After working in the public school system, it is great to be in a flexible work environment with lots of perks – not just the ability to have my own visual arts practice but also just able to carry out any life necessities in a business that supports a work/life balance.

Working with Robyn and the team has given me greater confidence in training and managing staff and contributing to staff morale. A key part of my role is writing programs and lesson plans and I love being able to interpret this information to staff as part of our training procedures. My previous classroom experience has been great as I provide ongoing support network for teachers who need advice for their lessons through weekly contact emails, sharing class experiences in teams – tips and tricks!

Recently I took over ordering materials for the business – knowing where to source art materials for the business and finding the best value for money, organising materials amongst staff and devising filing system.

I love that I get to work with like-minded people in a fun and supportive environment. And after working in a corporate environment, I wouldn't want to work anywhere else – this is what they mean by following your passion!



Libby Gerner, Art Tutor, artKids (employed casually 6 years)

As a Teacher in the Public School system for over 30 years, teaching in general has been my life's passion. Being able to now teach art is a joyful, fun and rewarding occupation.

For me, artKids is a supportive and flexible organisation to work for, and I love working with colleagues who are similarly inspired to enhance children's lives through making art.

artKids gives me a chance to combine my favourite things - teaching and art! My life is busy managing a 40-acre farm and raising a family of two teen boys, therefore having a structure in which to create artworks myself, for the purpose of teaching, is fulfilling and satisfies that creative outlet for me.

I enjoy sharing ideas and skills with children, and I love being able to forge supportive relationships with kids and being able to encourage them in their growth. I love being amazed by what the students create, and their imagination and enthusiasm inspires me to look at art in a more relaxed and carefree way.

Christian Fietz, Art Tutor, artKids (2.5 years) - Currently studying Master of Education, UC

I love the flexible working hours around my university schedule. artKids has given me invaluable experience working with children and practicing my teaching skills for a future in Primary Education.

We have a great team and I love my co-workers.

I get a chance to be creative and artistic- and get paid for it!





Farah Al Ani, Art Assistant, artKids (6 months) - Currently, first year Bachelor's degree, UC

Working with artKids has proven to be a remarkable and invaluable experience for my busy and demanding full-time university student schedule. The after-school classes program has played a crucial role in enabling me to maintain a positive work-school-life balance. By allocating my mornings to fulfilling academic and personal responsibilities, I can dedicate my afternoons to my role as an Art Assistant at artKids.

Despite lacking significant prior work experience, I was warmly embraced by the artKids team and provided with on-the-job training opportunities. The supportive and friendly work environment fostered my professional growth, allowing me to develop essential skills for my current position and beyond. These new-found abilities are not only beneficial for my job but are also transferable to my future career and personal life.

Overall, artKids has not only accommodated my hectic university schedule but has also proven to be a stepping-stone for personal and professional development. The experience gained and the skills honed during my time with artKids will undoubtedly serve me well as I progress in my journey through both academia and my future career path.

Jack Doherty, Art Assistant, artKids (2.5 years – recently left) Visual Artist – Illustration (Manga)

I started working for artKids while I was completing my Diploma of Visual Arts at CIT. Working for artKids for the past 2+ years has been a great opportunity to be both creative and open-minded.

I struggled at times in school and at CIT as I have working memory learning needs. This means at times I have difficulty in processing instructions and retaining/recalling information.

Robyn, Jenna, Akka and the other tutors helped me by providing ongoing on-the-job training, providing checklists for me to follow for the standard daily duties, and giving me opportunities to lead small class teaching sessions in the area I feel most confident – Anime.

Assisting in artKids classes has helped improve my learning needs as I've developed ways to think fast. No two students are the same so I'm always having to think on my feet and figure out quick problem solving to accommodate for every student.

Assisting teaching our Anime/Cartooning class on Saturday afternoons has helped me learn how to share my artistic skills with other passionate Anime artists.

Working for artKids has helped me grow as a person, as I am now more confident in myself, in communicating with other people which has helped me with both my workspace and social life. I recently transitioned into a new part-time job and artKids skills and training gave me the self-confidence to move forward with my working life.



Patrick Blank, Art Assistant, artKids (2 years)

Patrick was recommended to artKids by a friend who assists families to understand and live with children or parents on the Autism Spectrum. He says:

I started working with artKids in July of 2021, and I've absolutely loved it! In the two years I've worked with Robyn and the team I've learned so much about myself. A few things that make working at ArtKids such a rewarding experience:

Firstly, I want to talk about Robyn herself. When I first met with Robyn, I was very nervous about how I would do in an area where I work with young kids. Robyn helped to make sure my first days/weeks I wasn't out of my



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depth, she was there when I needed questions answered, she provided me advice for when I was stuck (and still does - thanks Robyn!) and made sure that not only were the kids comfortable and safe around a new person, but that I was comfortable and safe with the kids as well.

The second thing I want to talk about is the kids that I work with. They make every session a wonderful experience that leaves me with a smile on my face at the end of the day. The approach that each individual child takes when starting a new project; the ideas and imagination that they show; even the way they use the medium to interpret the project in their own way - it reminds me of myself when I was their age, and how I'd use the medium I had to make something that I love, and seeing the kids trying techniques that they've never seen before and come running when they figure those techniques out makes me so proud.

And the kids themselves - seeing their smiling faces at the start of an afternoon, so excited to be there - it fills me with a special kind of joy. The kids really are the best part of working there.

And lastly, I want to talk about the rest of the artKids team. A group of individuals who really are such a wonderful group of people. Supportive; kind; always there to share the experiences of the day, and talk about the incredible things that the kids we work with have done, and always willing to celebrate with the rest of us when a child does something out of their comfort zone or makes something that they usually avoid - the joy and the pride isn't just felt by those who were there when the child did it, but by everyone in the team. Everyone celebrates the successes, everyone feels the happiness, and it makes the artKids team such a rewarding team to be a part of, and it makes working with artKids so rewarding as well.

That's why I love working with them.