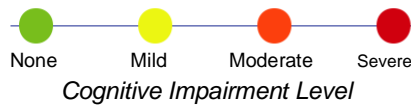


Art Activity

# Kandinsky Circles



## Summary:

Residents will use either paint or paper to create circular art forms in the style of Kandinsky.

## Objectives:

- Promote sense of accomplishment/increased self-esteem
- Improve mood through easily attainable activity
- Facilitate decision making/empowerment
- Foster creativity



## Supplies:

- Scrapbook paper in solid colors for circles and for base, approximately 8"x 8"
- Scissors
- Glue sticks or Elmer's squeezed out in advance and applied with a paint brush
- Circle forms to trace, in 6", 4", and 2" sizes
- Marker to trace around circle forms

## Room Set Up:

- Tables for residents to comfortably work
- Soft, instrumental music in the background

**iN2L** Music, TV & Film > Jukebox



# Facilitating the Activity

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## Procedure

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### Background Information

Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944) was an influential Russian painter and art theorist. He is credited with painting the first modern abstract works at age 44. Abstract art is art that focuses on geometric shapes, colors and lines, instead of representing natural or recognizable objects.

Kandinsky grew up in a wealthy family and learned to play the piano and cello, as well as study drawing and poetry. Fascinated with color, his famous piece, “Concentric Circles,” features contrasting circles and squares in three rows of four. He believed all colors and forms had meaning, so he carefully planned his paintings to communicate the feelings he wanted to express

1. Introduce the activity

#### Ask:

*“Kandinsky used color to suggest feelings. How do colors make you feel? Do you feel drawn to certain colors? Do you wear certain colors? What colors do you see around you and how do they make you feel?”*

- Warm colors, like red, orange, and yellow, can trigger feelings of happiness and warmth, or anger and passion.
- Cool colors, like blue, green, and violet, can show moodiness, sadness, or growth and serenity.

#### Say:

*“The circle is frequently used in art as a symbol of wholeness, timelessness and perfection. Drawing circles can promote a sense of calm and serenity. Think of rose windows in a church.”*

2. Invite residents to select paper colors that appeal to them (present colors 2-3 at a time, so as not to overwhelm residents).
3. Instruct residents to trace 3 sizes of the circle forms (largest, medium, small) onto the different colors of paper.



4. Cut out the traced circles.
5. Position sets of 3 circles (largest on bottom, then medium, then smallest on top) onto base square paper until pleased with outcome. Create as many circle squares as desired.
6. Glue the circles into place.
7. Share your art. Notice similarities and differences. Explore feelings the colors evoke.
8. Position all the created circle squares together to form one piece.

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## Processing

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Invite residents to share their thoughts about the project.

**Ask:**

*“Are certain colors used more than others? Why do you think this is so? Do you agree with Kandinsky that colors evoke emotion?”*

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## Adaptations/Modifications

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### Cognitive Impairment: None to Mild

- Offer wide variety of colors for residents.
- Allow residents to draw and cut out their own circles, emphasizing that they do not have to be perfect circles, as those are boring and lack character!
- Offer opportunity for residents to use acrylic paint in creation of their circles, like the artist did. Invite blending of colors and discuss various results.
- The residents can build each stack, one at a time.
- The residents can put down all the largest circles first, then the medium ones, and so forth.



### Cognitive Impairment: Moderate to Severe

- May pre-cut circles of different sizes for those unable to utilize scissors.
- Invite residents to sort circles by color, size.
- Invite residents to create patterns with the circles (e.g., red, yellow, blue, etc., or large/large/small, etc) .
- Limit choices—too many colors and shapes may be overwhelming.
- Assist/prompt/cue/model.
- Affirm all efforts.