Features of authentic arts learning

1. Authentic arts learning is multi-dimensional and embraces arts making and arts understandings.

2. At its core, authentic arts learning is practical in nature and learning is achieved by doing.

3. Authentic arts programs focus on developing children’s capacity to express their ideas and feelings and to present their creation in artistic forms. They therefore incorporate opportunities for children to:
   - imaginatively develop their own ideas and solve problems;
   - learn or practise skills with arts materials, concepts and processes;
   - think reflectively and respond to their own work and the work of others;
   - link their arts experiences to the wider world of arts culture.

4. Project approaches as represented by units of inquiry promote sustained engagement with concepts or ideas that create genuine arts learning opportunities. Units of inquiry support authentic arts learning.

5. The value of an arts program can be established by asking the following questions:
   - What opportunities are there for creative thinking and ideas development?
   - What art concepts and skills are being taught or practised?
   - What opportunities for imaginative interpretation and self-expression are provided?
   - How does this lesson make cultural connections to the wider world of art?
   - What opportunities are there for reflective thinking and responding?
   - How will completing this lesson contribute to children’s art literacy?

6. The arts are integrated in the curriculum in ways that support arts learning as well as learning in other areas of the curriculum.