**Lines and Spaces**

By: Carolyn Martin

*Can be adapted to any grade level. These examples and directions are from a first-grade class.*

*Plan to do this lesson in two different sessions.*

Objective:

* Student will recognize and reproduce the following lines: straight, curved, looped, jagged, wavy, diagonal, horizontal, and vertical.
* Student will fill each space with color.

Supplies:

* Drawing paper
* Pencil & eraser
* Black marker
* Crayons or coloring pencils
* Optional: a read-aloud book with illustrations that demonstrate the use of various lines. I use the book *Loopy* by Hardie Gramatky.

Lesson:

1. Read a story with good line illustrations and discuss the lines in the pictures or show a picture that clearly makes use of various lines.
2. Give each student a sheet of drawing paper.
3. Dictate a line that they should draw, while you demonstrate the line on another paper or on the board. (Important: Lines need to extend from one side of the paper to another. They should run off the edges.\*)
4. Dictate a different line and have students draw that line from one side of the sheet to another.
5. Continue to add different lines, crisscrossing lines that are already there.
6. Once all the lines are drawn; trace each line with a black marker (Sharpies work well.). \*
7. Students will then color each space with a different color—or at least use a different color for each adjacent shape.
8. Enjoy the varied and unique designs.

*\*Additional tips: For first grade, I have found that I usually need to do a little work on each child’s drawing before they go on to the marker step. It can be difficult for them to make the lines run off the edges so I often will need to add extenders to their lines. Also some students draw designs that create difficulty for them in the coloring step. An example of this is the student who draws many tiny loops all across his paper. I usually do the marker part for them (between the two art sessions) and then erase any pencil marks. This allows me to simplify their design if needed. I do not attempt to alter their design, only clarify it for the next step.*