

COLOR HARMONIES which may be a result of the color preference of the child

Harmonic color combinations are often created by working with the basic color wheel. The color wheel arrangement provides a tool with which to use a "formula" for the creation of pleasing combinations. The following list describes twelve such formulas that are possible with the 12 part color wheel.

PRIMARIES - This harmony utilizes the three primary colors: red, yellow and blue.

SECONDARIES - This harmony utilizes any of the secondary colors. Remember these are colors that have derived through the mixing of two of the primaries. Ex: violet, green and orange.

TERTIARY - This harmony combines the colors know as the tertiaries. These have been created when a secondary is mixed back with an adjacent primary. Ex. yellow-orange, red-orange, red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green, yellow-green

DIRECT COMPLIMENT - A direct compliment scheme utilizes two colors directly across from one another on the color wheel. Ex: Red and green; Yellow-green and red-violet.

DOUBLE COMPLIMENTARY - These schemes are created simply by combining the use of two sets of compliments. Ex: red and green with blue and orange

SPLIT COMPLIMENTARY - This scheme is a variation of the complimentary scheme in this way: a compliment is devised when one color is combined with the colors found on either side of its direct compliment. Ex. Blue combined with red-orange and yellow orange (rather than the direct compliment of orange)

ANALOGOUS - In this color scheme, two or three colors directly adjacent to one another on the color wheel are combined. This creates a very active color scheme. Ex: Yellow-green, green and blue-green

TRIADIC - In this color scheme, three colors that are equidistant on the color wheel are used together. This is probably the most difficult scheme to handle correctly since each color is of equal weight or intensity. Ex: Yellow-green, red-orange, blue violet

TETRAD - Similar to the triadic scheme except that 4 equidistant colors found on the wheel are combined together. Ex: Blue-green, yellow-green, red-violet, red-orange

MONOCHROMATIC - This color scheme uses only one color, but in various tints and shades. Ex: various tints and shades of a blue

ACHROMATIC - This is a color scheme that utilizes neutrals, only. This involves black and white particularly, but can also be schemes such as varying tints and shades of brown and grey.

NEUTRAL + ONE - This scheme occurs when any neutral, such as white or almost any shade of grey or brown is used with one color Ex: brown + blue; black and white + red

Colors have varying psychological connotations:

Warm color - cheerfulness, extrovert, fast pace, healthiness, nervousness, increased tension

Cool color - retiring, calming, introspective, time passes more slowly, less distracting, monotony

Greys - neutralizing, good for attentiveness, focus, distinguishing other colors

Black - sophisticated, night, power, black tie, black cars, night fear, death, blacklist, blackball, black cats

white - pure, angels, nurses, cleanliness, brides, light, boring, ghosts, death pallor, sterility

Red - excitement, richness, roses, bishop's roses, valentines, love, blood, devil, stop signs, revolution

Blue - sky, water, blue blood, blue ribbon, depression, illness (turning blue) once in a blue moon, frost, ice

Yellow - sun, serenity, buttercups, warmth, freshness, cowardice, fever, jaundice, shame

Green - grass, trees, spring, fertility, gardens, money, mold/decay, illness, witchcraft

Colors can create mind games:

Warm - shrink a room or make object appear larger, time passes more quickly, hotter environment

Cool - enlarge a room or make a object appear to have less mass (but more weight), time passes more slowly, colder environment

Simultaneous Contrast

"Afterimages"

Successful use of color can:

- decreases job stress
- provide a means of wayfinding
- increase morale
- improve attitude,
- speed healing
- serve as a symbol
- provide a sense of unity or belonging
- influence moods

