

Learn Art @ Home

Arts and craft activities are central to children's development. Crafts are a fun way to allow children to explore their creativity and develop their fine motor skills. Their creations will help children express themselves in different and imaginative ways.



How can I support my child with art?

1. Get messy!

Try to get hold of as many different types of drawing and painting resources as you can to let your child get creative and explore creating art using different materials. Paints, chalk, crayons, pens, pencils, modelling clay and much more can be found in discount shops. Just don't forget to put lots of newspaper down first!



2. Use household objects creatively

Alternatively, instead of buying materials, let them get creative using things around the house - for example, pasta and pulses to create pictures using glue.



3. Keep a sketch book

Encourage your child to keep a sketch book. Suggest that they take it with them when they go out so that they can look for things to sketch - a tree, a building, a scene. Alternatively, if they see something they would like to draw, take a photo on your phone and let them sketch from it when they are home.



4. Celebrate your child's art

Praise your child's creations and encourage them not to get disheartened if they feel they have made 'mistakes'. Explain that art is about being creative and trying out different things. There is no right or wrong way to do things. You could even 'frame' their work using coloured paper or card and create a little gallery on the kitchen wall or in their bedroom to display their work.



5. Discuss and enjoy art together.

1. Doodle Drawings.



This is a free-form drawing project that deals with the elements of design - colour, line, shape, form and texture. Very wonderful detailed works of art can be achieved by simply doodling. Have a look at the works of many great artists like Joan Miro, Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee for inspiration.

What You Need:

- *Any kind of drawing paper. (size 8' x 10' or larger).*
- *Markers, Pencils, Pencil Crayons*

What You Do:

1. *Begin in one spot on the paper and start drawing doodles. Create as many doodles as you like... the only rule is that no doodles should overlap or interfere with any other doodles.*
2. *If you wish, you can keep the doodles the same. In other words, draw only geometric shapes (ie squares, triangles, circles etc.) or draw only organic shapes (squiggly "natural" shapes).*
3. *When you have filled your paper with doodles, begin coloring in.*
4. *You may use solid colour, lines, cross hatching, dots, dashes... whatever you like.*
5. *Sign and frame your work.*

Pattern Drawing and Painting



Using paper, pencils, markers and some objects from around the home and classroom, you can create some fantastic patterns that will astound and amaze.

Objectives:

It's been said that creativity is the key to happiness and that by doing something creative every day, we can boost our moods (and productivity) tremendously. When you are fully immersed in a creative activity, your focus shifts away from day to day worries and stresses as you instead put all your attention on the immediate task at hand.

Some people like to write in a journal while others enjoy baking cookies. Still others express their artistry by arranging fresh cut flowers in a vase...

If you are looking for a simple, non-intimidating way to be creative today, have a peek at the following tutorial. It's perfect for all ages and uses items you will already have in your home

What You Need:

- Paper (8-1/2" x 11" or larger)
- Pencils
- Magic markers
- Rulers or other straight edges

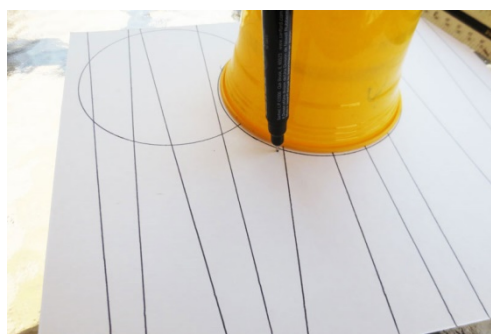
- Round lids from various sized containers (margarine, yogurt, milk caps, etc.) Be sure to have a nice variety available - ask the kids to bring round items in from home. (Optional: compasses used for drawing circles can be used instead of the container lids, making for a good tie-in to math)

What You Do:

Start by drawing between 12 and 16 straight lines across the paper. They can go in any direction, just as long as they travel from one edge of the paper to the other.



Next, place your circular objects on the page and start tracing them. Add as many or as few circles as you like and let them overlap in some areas.



Now comes the fun part. Grab your watercolor paints - or crayons, pencil crayons, markers, etc. — whatever you have on hand.

Begin filling in every other space with color. Take your time and don't panic if you "mess up" just continue on and "go with the flow".



One Step Further:

Experiment with different colour combinations. Try using two different colours instead of one.

Think about trying the complimentary colours together in the same design (red and green; blue and orange; violet and yellow).

ENCOURAGE MIXED MEDIA



Along with the art supplies, keep mixed media available for the kids to use.

Mixed media includes:

- old papers
- newspaper
- buttons
- yarn
- string
- And other odds and ends

You'll need glue or [Mod Podge](#) as well. That's what you'll use to stick the mixed media together!

And you'll be amazed and what types of fabulous artwork kids can create with mixed media!

They'll glue buttons onto their pictures. Use string and yarn to add depth and texture to their work. And use a newspaper to add interest.

So keep a variety of media in your art box for the kids to use. Then encourage the kids to use mixed media in their art!

COPY MASTERPIECES



Van Gough Starry Night

Copying masterpieces is an awesome way for kids to improve their artwork.

Just pull out pictures of old masterpieces and have the kids try recreating the Mona Lisa or sculpt David.

Have the kids start with a sketch before they begin to pain and see how close they can replicate the original painting.

It's also a great way to study the masters as well!

EVERY
CHILD
IS AN
ARTIST
-PICASSO