



## Getting Creative in the Visual Arts

The Visual Arts are about looking at, making, and talking about art. Drawing, painting, sculpting, coloring, and making collages are examples of visual art activities. You can build your child's art skills by giving her time to be creative and explore different art materials. Try these activities:

### INFANT:

- Add a few drops of food coloring to whipped cream, oatmeal, icing, or water. Let your child "finger paint." He will enjoy exploring and making different colors and different designs!
- Read picture books with lots of color to your infant. Describe and point to what you see in the pictures. Try reading: "Bilingual Bright Baby Colors" by Roger Priddy or "My Colors / Mis Colores" by Rebecca Emberley.

### TODDLER:

- Encourage your child to scribble! Give him paper and crayons or sidewalk chalk.
- Create a Visual Art Box. Fill a box with paper, pencils, pens, crayons, chalk, markers, old magazines or photos, a child's pair of scissors, and glue. Leave the box in a place where your child can easily get to it and use the materials. Try to change the materials every few weeks. This will keep your child interested in making works of art.
- Help your child create art in the bathtub! Use bathtub paints or foam shapes to create different designs.

### PRESCHOOLERS:

- Read a short book to your child and ask him to draw pictures to go with the story.
- Paint with marbles: Line the inside of a shoebox with paper; dip marbles in paint and put them in the shoebox. Have your children gently shake the box, letting the marbles roll around the bottom of the box. If the children are too wild with the boxes put the lids on the boxes first before you let them shake. Remove the paper from the box. Talk about the lines, colors, and shapes of the painting.
- Make a sculpture or collage (a piece of artwork that combines different materials on one surface). Ask your child to use art materials found in your home to create a work of art. Offer bottle caps, rice, macaroni, empty toilet paper rolls and old magazines.
- Mix paints. Use primary colors – red, yellow, blue – tempera paint or watercolors and have your child create secondary colors. For example: red + blue = purple, yellow + blue = green, yellow + red = orange. Encourage your child to be creative. Ask: what other colors can your child make?

### Book Suggestion

*The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse* by Eric Carle

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