

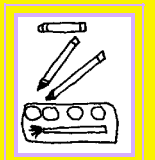
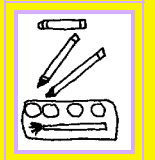
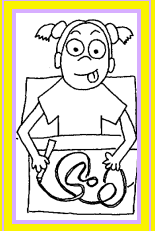
# Drawing and Painting

PLAY  
IDEAS 13

ABOUT  
DRAWING



Children love to draw. Beginning with scribbling and making marks on paper, children soon learn to copy shapes and later start to draw people, trees, houses and other things they see around them. Through drawing and painting children are developing control of their fingers and hands, communicating thoughts and feelings, using their imagination and learning about size, shape and colour.

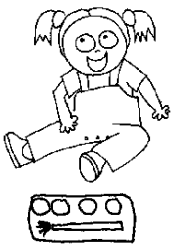


## DRAWING AND DEVELOPMENT



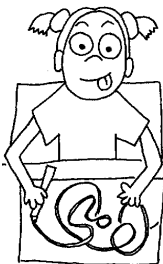
### Babies

Children first enjoy marking a page and scribbling around 12 months of age. They also enjoy eating the crayons if you don't keep an eye on them! They tend to use whole arm movements, use either hand and hold the crayon like a "dagger".



### Toddlers

Around 2 years of age toddlers will start to imitate strokes you make on the paper: circular scribbles, down and across strokes. There is less "scribbling" and more use of lines, however, the activity is far more important than the end product.



### Young Children

Around 3 years of age most children decide which hand they want to draw with and begin holding the pencil with their fingers away from the palm. Around 3<sub>1</sub> to 4 years your child's drawings will begin to take shape. You may see the family, a house, the sun or a tree. They will tell you about what they've drawn, although you may not always be able to see it. Around 5 years their pencil grip has improved and they will try to copy letters, shapes and numbers.



P.A.L. PLAY AND LEARNING PROGRAM  
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## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Develop your child's hand skills with activities like building blocks, threading, pop-beads, playdough, nuts and bolts, puzzles, finger rhymes, action songs, and craft activities. To use a pencil well you need good manipulative hand skills.
- Let your child enjoy the sensory experience and emotional release of just messing about with paints and colours, where the activity is more important than the end product.
- Encourage your child to talk about their drawings and paintings: colours, shapes, ideas. Be an interested listener.
- Choose a place in your house for displaying artwork such as the fridge or a noticeboard.
- Have fun with a variety of drawing materials: finger painting; drawing in shaving cream, sand or flour, using paint brushes, chalk, textas, crayons, blow pens, drawing with wax candles then painting over, magnadoodle, blackboard or whiteboard.
- Use upright surfaces some of the time: eg. easels, blackboards or paper taped to a wall.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Drawing and painting is best supervised. Pencils can be sharp, toddlers may try to eat the crayons and paint can get messy. Use non-toxic pencils and paints. Some markers contain solvents which are harmful if inhaled.

## SOME ACTIVITIES TO TRY

- **Drawing with baby** Offer a large sheet of paper, taped to the table, and one crayon. Show your baby how to scribble on the paper. Praise any efforts at marking the page.
- **Copy me!** Encourage your toddler to copy your marks on paper. Show your toddler how to do circular scribbles ("round and round"), down and across. Black on white is most easily seen, providing a clear line. Later include showing simple drawings: e.g. a face: eyes ("around and stop"), nose ("down"), mouth ("across").
- **Painting** Paint outside and keep a wet cloth ready for wiping hands. Have large sheets of paper. Choose 3-4 colours, and have a large paintbrush for each colour (too much choice can be distracting). Wear old shirts or aprons.
- **Butterfly painting** Do different paint colours onto half a sheet of paper, then fold and press the sides together. Open the paper and see the "butterfly".
- **Stamping** Use fruit and vegetable pieces to print onto paper. Onions, potatoes, carrots and apples are good for stamping. Or paint leaves, coins, hands or feet to make patterns.
- **Finger painting** Pour the paint directly onto the surface, and have your child use both hands together and paint big circles and patterns.
- **Make cards** for friends and send drawings. Label your child's artwork, letting them tell you about their drawing and writing down what they say.
- **Paint to music** Express your feelings in colours and shapes.
- **Other drawing activities** Try simple dot-to-dot and mazes, tracing, templates, rubbings, magic paint books, colouring, magnadoodle etc.

## PLAY IDEAS 13

## ABOUT DRAWING

