

ART WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Young children learn many things from doing art. Activities such as drawing, painting, cutting, and gluing help build small muscles. When they create something they are using their imaginations.

Art should be as "open-ended" as possible. This means that the child gets to choose how the project will look when it is finished. You will find that the more open-ended the activity, the longer your child will spend doing it.



Large blank sheets of paper are best for drawing or painting. When your child proudly shows you his drawing you can say things like, "I see you used a lot of blue." Avoid general praise such as, "That's beautiful" because that may not have been the child's intent.

Collage is a wonderful activity for children because there are so many interesting things they can make. Many household materials can be used for collage such as:

- Leftover wrapping paper
- Bits of yarn and fabric
- Old buttons
- Scraps of construction paper
- Sandpaper
- Sponge pieces
- Film canister lids
- Cut up toilet or paper towel tubes
- Small rocks from outside
- Styrofoam packing pieces

Place the collage pieces in bowls or on a tray. Give your child a piece of cardboard and paste. Paste gives the child more control, but glue in a bowl with a brush can also be used. (Be careful with small objects such as buttons or beans when doing collage with children under three years old.)