

Art

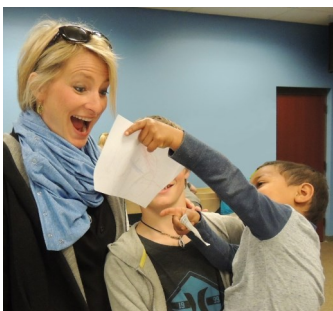
fyi.uwex.edu/parentingthepreschooler/

Tips for a Good Start at Art

- ◆ Give children many ways to paint - finger, brush, or a feather.
- ◆ Let children use fat crayons, washable markers, or colored pencils.
- ◆ Make blow paint monsters by giving the child a glob of paint on their paper and a straw.
- ◆ Make fruit salad sculptures with toothpicks and small pieces of apple, pears, or grapes.
- ◆ Create a bookmark about the story in the child's favorite book.
- ◆ Put paper in a shoebox. Ask the child to dip a marble in paint and roll it around. Use several colors.
- ◆ Talk about color, line, pattern, shape, size, texture, and numbers.



Photograph by Carmen Saucedo



Photograph by Lisa Boyer

Give Art Meaning

When the child is finished, ask them questions like, "Tell me about your drawing," or "Wow, what is happening here?" This will encourage a conversation, which is good for language growth and helps give their drawing meaning.

What Does Children's Art Tell Us?

Through art, children can express creativity and share their skills and thoughts. Drawing is an early form of writing for young children, and their word skills and drawing skills develop together. Studies show kindergarten literacy skills relate to drawing abilities.



Photograph by Melinda Stuart

Art & Words Develop Together

Why is Art Important?

- Art helps tune fine motor skills.
- Seeing and making art is important to a preschooler's overall growth.
- Developmentally appropriate art activities help children delight in art and their artistic abilities.
- Children learn through their senses and art allows children to use many senses.
- Art and creativity go hand-in-hand.

What to Do?

- Display preschooler's artwork.
- During a neighborhood walk, talk about the art you see and ask questions.
- Explore math, shapes, textures, and colors through art.
- Read children's books about art.
- Show children a variety of artists and artwork to help develop their interest and appreciation for art.

UW-Extension Family Living Programs

"Raising Kids, Eating Right, Spending Smart, Living Well"



For more information, please contact your county UW-Extension office:

<http://counties.uwex.edu/>

[Link To References](#)

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