



Supplies for Your Child, the Artist

Art projects are an enjoyable and creative way to spend time. It is a good idea to have art supplies available so your child can explore his artistic side whenever he is inspired! You can create an art cupboard or art box filled with a variety of materials your child may enjoy. Until your child is old enough, the art supplies should be kept out of reach to prevent an accident or mess. Remember to make sure the materials say “non-toxic” (and “washable,” if this is a concern) before you add them to the art supplies. A few basic items are important in your child’s art box, but don’t be afraid to use your imagination. Here are some ideas:

PAPER - In a variety of sizes, shapes and colors. Craft paper or butcher paper is heavier and is available in large rolls.

Craft paper can be found at most craft supplies stores.

CRAYONS - Thick crayons are easier to grip and less likely to break. They work best for very young children. Thinner crayons are recommended when children’s manual dexterity increases between the ages of three and four.

MARKERS - Washable! Washable! Washable! There are many exciting types of markers available. Experiment with various kinds and test out their effects on different types of paper. Be wary of using food-scented markers until the child is old enough to understand that they are not edible.

PENCILS - Like crayons, thick pencils are easier for younger children to write with.

GLUE - Glue sticks are the least messy. Liquid glue can be managed by pouring a small amount into a dish and using a thin paintbrush as an application tool. Otherwise, simply encourage gentle squeezing with liquid glue in bottles.

PAINT - Water-based usually means washable and is best for easy clean up.

BRUSHES - In a variety of sizes and shapes.

SCISSORS - Children’s safety scissors work well for basic cutting. Introduce and supervise practice with adult scissors when cutting fabric and thicker materials.

PLAYDOUGH - Clay products made especially for children are softer and easier to manipulate.

EASELS - Easels allow for more movement and freedom. Can be freestanding or tabletop.

FOUND OBJECTS - Such as string, buttons, ribbons, beads, glitter, and dry beans. Other household objects can become interesting new tools to paint with. Try toy cars, sponges, etc.

