

Coloring and Drawing Together

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Children often enjoy coloring, drawing, or scribbling on paper or other surfaces. Sharing creative time is a fun way to explore, experiment, and discover. It also supports language and communication development, as well as fine motor, cognitive, and social skills. Try some of the following ideas.

Provide a blank piece of paper or other appropriate surface and drawing utensils, then...

- Watch the child scribble. As they work, talk about their actions, such as *You're making big bubbles now. Look at all those dots. Etc.*
- Label colors. E.g., *Red. That's a red box.* Make a pattern. Green-blue-green-blue, etc.
- Hang a large piece of paper on a wall or the floor and draw. Outside, draw in sand, dirt and mud. This gives another perspective for drawing, which may be easier for some.
- Draw on paper placemats in restaurants, while waiting for food. Child-friendly restaurants often have paper table clothes to encourage drawing.
- With a writing implement, follow a child's lead on paper. As they move their crayon up, you follow behind going up. When they draw circles, you do the same. Say, *Round, and round and round we go!* If they make dots, say *Dot-dot-dot.*
- As a child draws lines up and down and say, *Up and down and up and down!* When drawing horizontally, say, *Back and forth and back and forth.* The child learns words while doing the directional movements.
- Place something textured like sandpaper under the drawing paper to affect drawing. Comment on what happens. *Oh, look! It's bumpy.*
- Draw an animal or object that is familiar to a child. Ask, *What does this look like?*
- Provide a label for the child's picture. *Hey, look! You drew a bunny! See their ears?* Not all children will want you to do this, so be patient. Maybe they'll label it.
- Dip small cars or marbles into paint and roll them on paper. Talk about the patterns created.
- Draw a house and have your child label parts. Ask, *What's on top? What's this next to the door? What else can we add?*
- Together draw a simple figure, like a snowman. Take turns adding parts. Then take turns creating a story about the snowman.

Display the creations



A Child's Art Gallery

