



How can so much fun get my child ready for school?

Crayons, markers, and other art supplies are used every day in kindergarten. They are key to helping a child learn to hold a pencil and write. Handling markers, paint brushes, and scissors develops eye-hand coordination and helps strengthen hand and finger muscles for writing. Art activities also give kids an opportunity to be creative, have fun, and feel proud of their work.

Try these at home!

- **Create a Creative Corner**, a special space where children can work on art. Stock the space with paper, crayons, markers, pencils, pens, rulers, glue, and scraps (like empty paper towel rolls) for crafts. This way your child can jump into an art activity any time.
- **Ask for Art**. Set out markers and paper and ask your child to draw. Remember, there is no "right" or "wrong" way to create. Let your child explore and be creative on her own. You will be amazed at what she comes up with. Display the results in your home.
- **Name That Kid**. Write your child's full name on a piece of paper. Invite him to copy the letters on another piece of paper. This helps your child learn how to write his name.



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Things to say:

- **"Tell me about your drawing/painting."** Saying it this way gives a child the opportunity to talk to you about their drawing. Asking "What is it?" may hurt a child's feelings because they may think their effort isn't good enough for you to tell what it is. Art that children have made usually makes perfect sense to them, and, with a little encouragement, they will let you know all about it.
- **"Wow, you used the color red a lot in that picture!"**
Describe what you see.
- **"You have a great imagination!"** Praise the young artist's creativity.

Read All About It:

Preschool Art: It's the Process, Not the Product by MaryAnn Kohl

The Big Messy Art Book: But Easy to Clean Up
by MaryAnn F. Kohl

The Art Lesson by Tomie dePaola

The Crayon Box that Talked by Shane Derolf



Illustrations by Corey Smigiani

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