Let’s Make Art!
Art comes naturally to children when they are given the materials and the opportunity to use them. They pick up drawing tools at an early age and scribble lines and circles. This is the first step to developing drawing and writing skills. Even before their pictures resemble real objects, they will tell you what they are and often tell a story about them. These early attempts at drawing lead to stronger fine motor skills, better observational skills, and a great imagination.

Some forms of artwork young children enjoy are:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Sculpting with clay
- Collage

It is important for adults to remember that the process of creating art work is more important than the finished product. Give your child the opportunity to explore art materials and experiment with mixing colors. Children’s artwork has a simplicity and a joy to it that should be encouraged and valued. So grab a crayon or two, and let’s make art!

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Featured Book

**Harold and the Purple Crayon, by Crockett Johnson**

One night when Harold is not sleepy he decides to go for a walk with his purple crayon. He uses his crayon to draw himself into many adventures, and his imagination takes him to all kinds of interesting places. This classic story was first published in 1955 and is still a childhood favorite!

Crockett Johnson is the author and illustrator of five books about Harold and The Purple Crayon.

- Harold’s Fairy Tale
- Harold’s Trip to the Sky
- Harold at the North Pole
- Harold’s Circus
- A Picture for Harold’s Room

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More books that encourage artwork...

- *Mouse Paint*, by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- *The Art Lesson*, by Tomie de Paola
- *Look! Look! Look!* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace - also *Look! Look! Look! At Sculpture*
- *I Spy Shapes in Art*, by Lucy Micklethwait
- *The Dot*, by Peter Reynolds
More fun with Harold and the Purple Crayon

Problem solving... Give your child a piece of paper and a crayon (it doesn’t have to be purple) and have her pretend to be Harold. Present a problem and ask her to draw a solution. For example, “Harold’s mom forgot to pack a snack today.”

Arts and crafts... On a blank piece of paper, draw a squiggly line or the beginning of a shape. Ask your child to use his imagination to finish the drawing. You can play, too!

What do you know? Help your child find out how a crayon is made. Look for books at your library, such as:

- *How Is a Crayon Made?* by Oz Charles
- *Wax to Crayons*, by Inez Snyder

Song to sing with your child:

**Somewhere over the Rainbow**

Somewhere over the rainbow
Way up high,
There’s a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby.

Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue,
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true.

Someday I’ll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me.
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That’s where you’ll find me.

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly,
Birds fly over the rainbow.
Why then, oh why can’t I?
If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can’t I?

Hear the tune at
http://nurseryrhythms4u.com/NURSERY_RHYMES/Page_955.html

Fingerplay

**A Rainbow Fair**

When the rain falls from the sky,
(sprinkle fingers down)
Don’t forget to look up high.
(look up)
If the sun is shining there,
(make circle with arms above head)
You may see a rainbow fair:
(make rainbow shape with hands)
Red, orange, yellow, green, and blue,
(show color ribbons or count on fingers)
And you’ll see there’s purple too.

What your library can do for you...

Look for books that have different styles of artwork and talk about the art with your child.

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