

Your Young Artist

Your child gives form to his experiences through creative art. As he draws, paints, glues, or sculpts, he works through his emotions, experiments with materials, and represents his understanding of the world. Unlike craft projects where you decide what to make and how to make it, his every creation is unique. Each material offers its particular qualities to him and he brings his own special qualities to the materials.

Process art focuses on actions, thinking, and individual expression, rather than on final products. What your child learns about himself and the world through his experiments is more valuable than the resulting piece of artwork. If your child isn't in school yet, he doesn't have the control over the muscles he needs to make a completed art product.

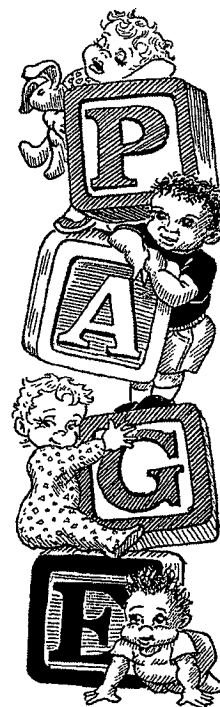
Think about what your child can create **with** instead of **what** he will create. Some materials you may want to start collecting in your home are:

- A** aluminum foil, aquarium gravel and plants, art foam, acorns
- B** beans and seeds, boas, buttons, berry baskets, bingo daubers
- C** clothes pins, corks, cardboard rolls and tubes, computer paper, cotton balls
- D** dried flowers, detergent jugs and caps, duct tape
- E** egg cartons, electrical tape, envelopes
- F** food containers, file folders, fabric, felt, film canisters, flower pots, feathers
- G** gallon milk jugs, grocery bags, greeting cards
- H** hats, hair clips, headbands with animal ears
- I** ice cream tubs, index cards
- J** juice cans, junk mail, jewelry

- K** kite string, keys, kitchen utensils
- L** lids, lace, leaves
- M** milk cartons, manila envelopes, magazines, magnets
- N** newspaper, newsprint, noodles, nuts
- O** oatmeal boxes, ornaments
- P** panty hose, pipe cleaners, paper cups and plates, popcicle sticks, pvc pipe scraps
- Q** queen's crowns, Q-tips
- R** ribbon, rice, rubber bands, rubber gloves
- S** spice containers, sponges, shopping bags, shoe boxes, sheets, stickers, scarves
- T** tempera paints, tongue depressors, tennis ball cans, toothpicks, tissue paper
- U** unmatched socks
- V** velvet scraps, velcro, valentines
- W** wood scraps, watercolor paints, wire, wallpaper samples, washers
- X** x-actly the right beautiful junk, x-rays
- Y** yarn
- Z** zillions of ideas for using beautiful junk

Allow your child to take the lead while encouraging him to wonder, notice, experiment, and create. As he makes observations and ask questions, your child opens his mind to possibilities and recognizes the affects of his work. For instance, a child painting with red and blue paint mixes them randomly and the adult states, "How did you make purple? I only gave you red and blue." Offer a variety of experiences to help your child understand how different art tools and materials work. Here are a few ideas:

- Weaving outdoor chain-link fences with fabric scraps.
- Creating textured collages with items that are all the same color.



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- Marble or golf ball painting inside of pizza boxes (dip balls in paint and put on paper lining box, close lid, and shake).
 - Drawing with crayon cookies (put old pieces of crayons-minus paper-into muffin tin and bake at 350 degrees until melted, cool, and use).

Include your child in the care and clean up of their materials. Sweeping up, wiping tables, rinsing paintbrushes, and other tasks help give him a sense of responsibility and ownership.

Display his creations proudly. Your child sees the world differently than you. His artwork may seem incomplete or unrecognizable. As he gains control, understanding of how materials work, and notices greater detail in objects, his creations will come closer to reality. Avoid changing or adding to his work. Celebrate where he is in the process!

Parents,
This information is provided to you today on behalf of a special visiting program your care provider is taking part in. If you would like to receive similar visits and learn more about how your child grows and develops, please contact your local Parents as Teachers program or call 1-866-PAT4YOU to find a program in your area, or visit our website at www.patnc.org