

Art and craft

Drawing and puzzles

Drawing

Drawing provides many opportunities for children to engage in ways to be imaginative and creative. As children draw they explore and develop their understanding of different drawing materials and the elements of art such as colour, texture, line and shape. Children may start to represent their ideas or just simply explore the experience of making marks.

Supporting your child's learning

- Set up a small 'drawing' table in the corner of the family room, bedroom or kitchen that contains blank paper of different sizes, shapes and colours. Provide pencils, jumbo crayons and felt pens.
- Set aside a five-minute drawing time each day when you can draw with your child. This is a great

opportunity to sit together and talk about what you are drawing. Encourage them to talk about their ideas and feelings or colours, lines and shapes.

- Talk with your child about their drawing. Introduce new language and focus attention on the lines, colours, shapes and patterns that they can see.
- Encourage your child to explore making marks and understand that they may not always be representing something 'real' when they are drawing.
- Display your child's drawings on a wall or on the fridge to show your child that you value their work.

It is important to talk positively about your child's efforts with drawing. If children feel that their attempts are not acceptable or are unwanted, they may refuse to draw saying, *I can't draw. Will you help me?*

Children who feel discouraged need careful encouragement to re-enter the world of drawing. Most importantly they need their confidence rebuilt.



Ways to encourage your child to draw

Looks like you enjoyed trying out all those colours.

I see you used lots of long wavy lines.

Was it hard to make all those little dots?

I can tell that's a sun. Look at all those hot sunrays!

What else might your lion need?

Avoid comments like...

You left out the body! Your arms and legs don't come off your head!

Couldn't you draw some more on that sheet of paper.

That can't be a horse, it's only got two legs.

What is it?

Puzzles

Puzzles help children to develop finger strength and control as they manipulate or move the pieces.

Playing with puzzles also encourages children to visually track pictures and parts of pictures from left to right and top to bottom. They also learn to identify visual similarities and differences.

Learning while completing puzzles

Hand-eye coordination

As your child picks up and positions pieces they develop small-muscle control in their fingers. Prompt your child to turn, flip, slide and wriggle pieces into position. The more they practise, the easier it becomes.

Confidence and persistence

Completing puzzles helps your child to learn to accept challenges, overcome problems and deal with frustrations. When they have completed a puzzle, they will feel proud and more confident to try another.

Thinking skills

Puzzles develop a child's memory skills, ability to plan, test ideas and solve problems. They need to remember shapes, colours, positions and strategies to complete familiar and new puzzles.

Supporting your child's learning

- Talk with your child about the picture on the puzzle before taking the pieces out.
- Take out the puzzle pieces and place them 'face up'.
- Find the corner and edge pieces first and put them in place.
- Look for pieces according to the shapes needed to fit a space.
- Flip and turn pieces, match colours, look for 'parts' of pictures or lines that might go together.

Make your own puzzles

Make your own puzzles from photos or pictures from magazines. Cut pictures into two or three pieces, using straight lines across the picture. Ask your child to put the picture back together. Increase the number of pieces, and change the shape of the pieces, when your child is ready for a more challenging puzzle.



For further information visit www.qld.gov.au/kindy

Disclaimer: the information in this resource sheet is offered as a guide only and should not be treated as an exhaustive statement on the subject.