

Ways to support creative art making at home

The World Economic Forum identified skills such as creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, adaptability and persistence as skills that students will need in the 21st century. In addition to the enjoyable, aesthetic and cultural aspects of art, these types of 21st-century skills are developed and nurtured in the art-making process. Here are some ways that you can support your child:

Have a dedicated space <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a special table or work area where your child can make art at any time.• Allow your child to keep work in progress on the table for a period of time.• Have materials accessible and ready to use.• Establish a few general rules about how to manage the space (don't leave liquid paint bottles open, wipe off the surface when finished, etc.)	Get a variety of materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crayons• Pencils, colored pencils• Watercolor pencils• Markers• Watercolor paints• Tempera paints• Scissors, string• Liquid glue and glue sticks• Variety of drawing paper and colored paper• Recycled boxes• Transparent tape and masking tape• Stapler, hole puncher
Allow children to think like an artist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artists think of their own ideas and find ways to express them• Artists consider what materials they want to use• Artists sometimes experiment with materials without a plan• Artists sometimes make a plan to express an idea• Artists make mistakes• Artists often work in a series (focused on something they love such as drawing cars)• Artists display or share their work	Focus on the process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When children are free to experiment and try out things without the pressure of trying to have a finished product for all their artwork, they will take more risks and be more creative.• When discussing artwork with your child, focus more on the thinking and making process in the conversation. Saying things such as: How did you get the idea for this piece? How did you make that color? I like how you added these patterns here! What is your favorite part?
Display artwork <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Displaying work around the house is an excellent way to demonstrate that you value your child's creative thinking.• You can ask your child to help you be the "curator" of the display.• Create a short video of your child talking about their artwork to share with grandparents, etc.	Visit galleries and museums or join a neighborhood class <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking a few minutes to visit a gallery or museum demonstrates that art is a valuable part of our culture.• If your child demonstrates a particular interest in painting or clay, for example, see if there are any children's classes in your area for them to explore.