

Painting on Paper

I see you using purple paint.

I'm painting.

Provide your child with paper, paintbrushes, and one or two colors of paint.

Your child's creativity will grow when you offer her a variety of painting experiences.



Why this is important

At this age, your child may naturally experiment with many original ways of doing things. With paint, she has many opportunities to express her original ideas without instruction. Early creative experiences can help to enrich the later, more cautious stages of your child's artistic development.

What you do

- Place painting materials on a low, flat table surface protected with newspapers, or put a few newspapers on the floor to use as a work space.
- Offer your child a paint smock. An old adult shirt worn backwards also works well.
- Allow your child plenty of time to explore with the paint and brushes.
- Stay nearby as your child paints, but wait until she finishes before offering comments: *You made a big red shape and some long blue lines. That's a wonderful painting!*
- Increase the number of paint colors after she feels comfortable with the painting process. You also can offer different colors of paper and different sizes of brushes or sponges to paint with.

Another idea

Find a space in your home to display your child's art. You can talk about her work and encourage her to describe it to others.

Let's read together!

The Dot
by Peter H. Reynolds