

5 EASY STEPS

TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO
DRAW

By Natalie Hopkins



5 Easy Steps to Encourage your Child to Draw

Why?

Are you concerned that your child may be spending too much time on a phone or computer? That their skills are being hindered by technology and those educational supplies you bought them are just gathering dust?

In today's society we are ruled by bright flashy screens that fight for our attention on a daily basis, and unfortunately this relationship is one sided. We don't benefit or grow when we spend our precious time looking at a screen, in fact, it is actually stealing from us. It steals our opportunities and it steals our time.

I want to help guide parents using my 11 years of teaching experience to give their children a new story, a better opportunity. Let children release their daily frustrations in a modern world so that they can create a happier self and grow into their full potential. And what better tool to use than Art!

I have seen the joy and motivation that children experience when we have entered a competition and won a prize, or when their artwork gets chosen to be displayed at their school entrance for all parents to see. I have guided many young hands and in this PDF I want to equip you too in guiding your child to success.

"Art is so beneficial as it develops the mind, body and soul of a child. It can lead to a well balanced individual and will prepare our future generation to be creative leaders of the world".

Start today by encouraging your child to get creative. Don't know where to start? We have listed 5 Easy Steps to encourage your child to draw.

Step 1

The space

Setting up an inviting and appealing area for your child to draw is the first step in encouraging their artistic journey. A dedicated space for creating will nurture your child's creativity, enhance their focus and increase their motivation levels.

Now how do you create this space?

Easy.

Let's get set up.

Lighting

Ensure there is enough natural light. It has been proven that increased natural lighting in an environment boosts performance, wellbeing and creativity. The more natural light the more conducive the environment is for creating.



Image by JC Aguirre from Pixabay

Surrounding Environment

Make sure you are being intentional about the environment you are creating.

Anything that your child can see can affect their being in the environment.

Colour can have an enormous effect on your child, and although every child is different, certain colours have the ability to inspire and motivate us. In general younger children thrive in bright colours. Warm colours can enhance productivity while a cool colour can have a calming effect and aid in concentration. Consider painting the walls or furniture to help spark your child's motivation and creativity.

Comfort

Make sure your little one is comfortable. They have the correct tables and chairs for their height and that their feet can touch the floor so that they have the ability to anchor themselves. If the table and chair are not sturdy they will feel uneasy and unsure, which can hinder their confidence and the creative process.

Additionally you can add a variety of drawing surfaces so that your child has the freedom of choice. For example, a standing easel, a table or perhaps a portable drawing platform.



Image by Sandry Rivera from Pixabay

Get Messy

Have a space where your child is not afraid to make a mess. Where they have the freedom to make a spill or a mistake. A space that is easy to clean up if an accident were to happen.

Children thrive in the freedom of their own choices and learn a great deal from making those spills and mistakes. Create that environment where they have the ability to make their own choices.

Image by Elissa Capelle Vaughn from Pixabay



Keeping It Organised

When the creative process is over it is important to clean up. Even though it is a creative area, keeping it organised will make it easier for children to decide what they want to create. It will also teach them how to clean up and be organised. Kids learn best in organised spaces, so keep the clutter away, and use storage boxes which can be divided into categories.



Image by Marzena Kaczmarska from Pixabay

Make it personalised

When the space is custom made for your child and they have a say in the design and layout they will feel a sense of ownership over the space and will be more likely to engage and take care of the space.

Keep room for growth

Don't over fill the space. As your child engages in art and becomes more creative they will develop their own unique likes and interests. Providing room for growth will allow the room to take different shapes and forms over time as your child grows.

Step 2

Appreciation

Your response to your child's artwork will set the tone of their desire to keep trying. They will look at your reaction to see if all their hard work was worth the time and energy they spent on it. It is vital that parents show their children how important their work is by acknowledging, discussing and appreciating it. They not only hear that their work is important but that THEY ARE IMPORTANT. A great way to show you appreciate their work is to display it at home and it can also be used as a conversation piece when guests come over. Here are some ways to display your child's artwork to get you started.

Types of ways to display or appreciate your children's art

Fitted frames mounted on the wall that you can keep changing the artwork

Hanging string from the ceiling and clipping their art works to the string

Make memory books

Stick it on the Fridge

Take a photo and set it as your desktop or phone screensaver/background.

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Step 3

Equipment

Nothing is more frustrating when you are in the middle of creating and your marker doesn't work, or you don't have the right tools to achieve your outcome. Having working equipment and stationary will allow for creativity to flow.

Ensure you have a variety of materials that your child can explore, as each session is unique and it gives your child the opportunity to learn from that experience. Having the correct equipment will also help to avoid frustrations and ultimately lead to more time spent in the area because your child will know that the area is safe and well equipped.

Providing quality items can be beneficial to children as it sends them a positive message that their artwork is worth the very best, this feeling will encourage them to create. High quality materials can also teach a valuable lesson to children as they need to become more responsible in looking after their equipment. Children also tend to also work slower and be more intentional about their process. They will begin to enjoy creating art and learn that the process is more important than the final product.

A Basic List of items to have in stock

- ☐ Poster Paints
- ☐ Watercolour paints
- ☐ Oil Pastels
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Coloured Pencils
- ☐ Playdough
- ☐ Air dry clay
- ☐ Variety of paper
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Ink and stamps
- ☐ Chalk
- ☐ Coloured Tissue Paper
- ☐ Collage items - ex: Feathers, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, old magazines etc.
- ☐ Cardboard
- ☐ Glitter

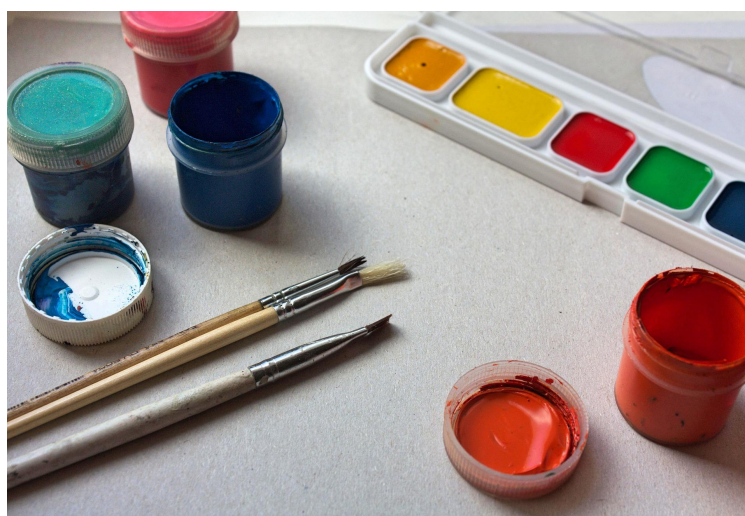


Image by ymkaaaaa from Pixabay

Step 4

The Process

Your attitude around art makes all the difference. Watch how you speak around your child. It can make a big impact on how they view the process of creating and if they will come back to the activity.

Remember Rome wasn't built in a day. Your own attitude can single handedly shape your child's perspective on the arts. So encourage the enjoyment of the process, it doesn't matter if the final product is not what you expected.

The problems your child had to solve and the critical thinking skills that they applied during the process are far more valuable than the final product. The more your child creates the better their applied skills become. During the process they will learn a variety of skills and with enough time their final product will resemble the thoughts and experiences they wanted to share with you.

When your child creates, engage with them, ask questions about their process and be interested! Being interested in your child's activities shows them that you care. Talk about their creation and appreciate the progress that they have made.

Focus on the positive achievements.



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Image by Aline Ponce from Pixabay

Step 5

Keep it fun

At the end of the day art is fun. It should never be forced into a box and you should not force your child to sit in the area if they are not feeling inspired to create. This will lead to a negative association with the area and your child will end up resenting art. If they are feeling uninspired take art outside! Play games and get that creativity flowing again. Art is so beneficial as it develops the mind, body and soul of a child. It can lead to a well balanced individual and will prepare our future generation to be creative leaders of the world.

Below is a 30 Day Art Challenge you can do with your child to start the creative journey. It will not only encourage them to create, but you can build a stronger bond with your child, show them your attitude towards art and learn something new along the way.

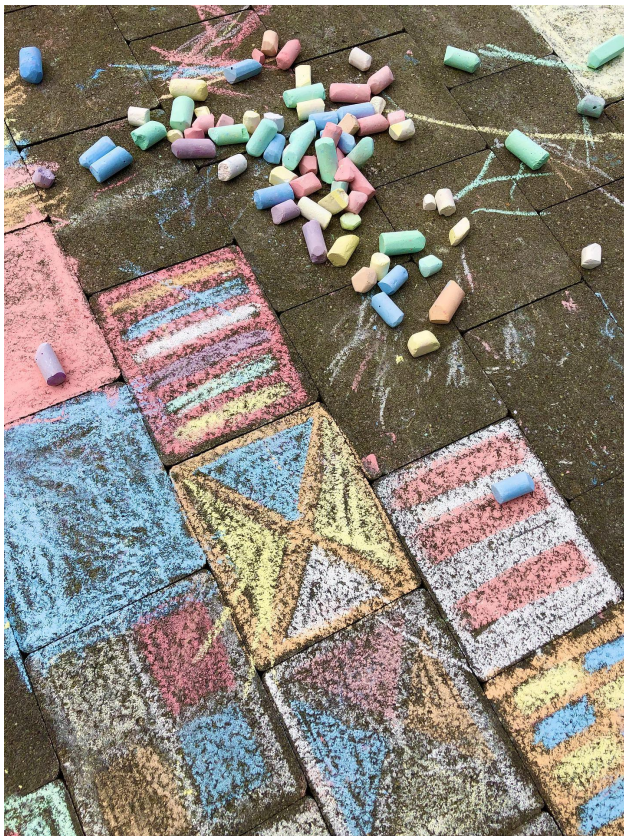


Image by CAIN80 from Pixabay



Image by freestocks-photos from Pixabay

Art Prompt Challenge

You can send us your creation to our email: nhartstudios@gmail.com

We would love to post and share it on our social media accounts to inspire our young community to create and become involved too.

Or tag us on Facebook! We would love to see our Art Community Creations.

Use the Hashtag #nhartprompts2022

30 Day Art Prompt NH ART STUDIOS Challenge For Beginners

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sunflower | 16. Wolf |
| 2. Pie | 17. Bridge |
| 3. Monster | 18. Gold fish |
| 4. Dinosaur | 19. Donut |
| 5. Radio | 20. Mountain |
| 6. Soda Can | 21. Boat |
| 7. Duck | 22. Gumball Machine |
| 8. Mushroom | 23. Moon |
| 9. Fairy | 24. Cupcake |
| 10. Pizza | 25. U.F.O |
| 11. Alien | 26. Cup of coffee/tea |
| 12. Pineapple | 27. A feather |
| 13. Palm Tree | 28. An eye |
| 14. Leaf | 29. Tulip |
| 15. Sandcastle | 30. House |



NH Art Studios



"There is no must in art because art is free. To my mind a picture should be something pleasant, cheerful and pretty. There are too many unpleasant things in life as it is, without creating still more of them"

