

Drawing from Curiosity



Chicago Children's Museum
at Navy Pier

700 E. Grand Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

(312) 527-1000

www.ChiChildrensMuseum.org

Kraft Artabounds Studio



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Have you ever wondered how to address your child's curious nature—and the rush of questions that arise from it? Do you search for innovative ways to nurture their curiosity and love of learning?

Drawing is an exciting way to explore the world around us. Through drawing, children have the opportunity to share their unique perspectives, while developing thinking skills and self-confidence. Encourage your child to slow down, look more closely and draw from their curiosity.

Follow their lead.

Let your child's curiosity inform their investigations and the images they create. Provide time, space, tools and encouragement to begin the journey. Artists build connections to the world around them that are unique. Their images can be based on imagination, observation or a combination of both.

Nurture imagination.

There is no right or wrong way to make art, so encourage your child to try new things, take risks and experiment. Delight in their approach to materials and the surroundings; whimsy and magic are the gift of young artists. Encourage them to explore ideas from their imagination and freely share their unique perspectives.

Go for a closer look.

If your child is interested in investigating everyday objects or concepts, give them with real objects or images to investigate. Encourage their researcher and investigation by gathering images and materials to inform their drawings. Ask questions that offer insight into what they see and think, and encouraging them to explore different ways of expressing the same idea.

Let the art speak for itself.

Don't risk insulting your young artist by interpreting their pictures. Instead ask what they'd like to share with you about their work. Reflect on the process and choices they've made. It is important to give specific feedback on the process are more thoughtful than generic compliments. You can learn much about a child's personal interests and unique ideas by listening and looking closely.

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Start a sketchbook.

Boost your child's feeling of accomplishment and ownership by giving them a special drawing book. Sketchbooks are a traditional way for artist to record ideas and track their progress. Keeping a sketchbook or scrapbook helps you and your child remember it's the journey—not the destination—that's important.

Keep it simple.

There are an endless variety of drawing materials available. Recycle paper products in your home such as paper grocery bags or photocopy paper for sketching. Heavy weight (90-140 lbs.) drawing paper can be purchased at art stores in books or sheets. As your child develops an interest in representational drawing, toss out the crayons. Felt-tip markers offer higher control of line quality for young artist than crayons. Invest in a wide variety of colors and experiment with broad-tips and small-tips.

Join in.

Pick up a pencil and paper and you, too, will make new and exciting discoveries. Be patient as drawing skills and confidence are developed over time, with lots of practice. Have fun and keep a sense of humor as you learn from each other and share the joys of drawing.