

# Art and Children

## Age Range

## What to expect:

2-4 years:

“Scribbling,” very little recognizable to adult eye.

- They represent gestures (small marks are rabbits hopping)
- Can sometimes put body parts in order, but seldom “realistically”

5-8 years:

Realism more recognizable

- Making it look real takes on importance.
- They will pay careful attention to detail

9 years:

First attempts at truly recognizable realism (even 3-D)

## What to say:

### **With the very young children (2-5)**

No questions need to be asked!

Open, affirming comments are best:  
*about?*”

Example: *“very interesting”*

*“Nice colors”*

*“I like that.”*

*“I saw you enjoying the green paint.”*

### **With older children:**

Use open ended questions.

Example: *“I wonder what your picture is*

*“I wonder if there is anything in this room which you would like to put in your picture.”*

### **Use descriptive statements for both:**

*“There is a lot of blue in your picture...”*

*“I see three people...and”*

*“There are lines here...and circles there...”*

*“You’ve used many bright colors...”*

*“You’ve put some over here, and...”*

*“These are very large...and the others are smaller...”*

### **Use feeling statements for both:**

*“Your picture makes me feel sad (warm, happy) inside.”*

*“...so many people (play dough)...they make me think of my family...”*

*“...and that make me feel happy inside.”*

*“Yellow always makes me think of sunshine...and that makes me happy.”*

**Do try to honestly value whatever they have done.**

