



## Tips for Creating an Artistic Space for Your Child

It is important to provide a creative space for your child, whether it is a small section of a room or simply the dining room table. Within the creative space, it is crucial that your child feels comfortable, safe, and at ease. Here are some tips:

**Displaying a variety of prints, photographs, or reproductions of famous paintings on the wall can be inspiring.** These items may also serve as helpful visual aids when discussing artistic techniques or subject matter with your child. When possible, try to hang pictures at your child's eye level.

**Spread a protective tarp across the table** (and floor space, if necessary) to protect against spills. Newspaper will work, but it can become soggy when saturated. Try a plastic tarp or inexpensive shower curtain.

**Have art clothes or smocks available.** Old adult t-shirts work very well.

**Make sure that the area is well lit.** Having a creative space near a window can be a nice way to use natural light, but be sure to have lamps available if your child wishes to make art after dark.

**Try playing music.** Experiment with different kinds of music and ask your child their preference. You can ask your child to draw how the music makes her feel or you can allow it to play in the background as your child creates their masterpiece!

**Spray bottles and wet wipes** make for an easy clean up.

**Shallow containers are best for paint.** Small, plastic storage containers with lids are helpful for keeping leftover paint fresh.

**It is a good idea to tape paper down** to a surface or use an easel with clips so that the paper remains stationary.

**Keep toys and books out of the way** so they do not get ruined by accidents, unless your child is creating a picture of a still life with them.

**Consider having a special frame** where you can rotate displays of different works of art your child has created. Ask the child which picture she would like in the frame.

**Don't be afraid to go outside.** Bring an easel or a painting table outside and encourage your child to paint the landscape or to use natural materials instead of paintbrushes.

**Remember safety!** Young children should not be left alone if sitting on a tall chair, when using potentially dangerous materials, or when working on or near glass.

