

## **Tips for Moms of Budding Artists by Karen Whiting**

### **Making Crafting Easier**

- Choose a location that's okay if kids get messy (easy to clean or outdoors)
- Cover work surfaces with plastic, including floors.
- Switch to an easier medium like colored pencils or crayons instead of paint.
- Keep cleaning supplies nearby, including wipes for children's hands. They can touch walls and things on the way to a sink, so cleaning up in place can be neater.
- Make sure crafts match the child's ability. Assess their skills and set things up to make it less frustrating. For example, if they are not cutting well yet, leave them a few simple shapes to cut and precut the rest.
- Make the gluing simpler with using glue dots. Or, Use small containers or wax paper to hold a little glue and provide a coffee storer for spreading the glue.
- Step back and let the child do the craft. They will develop skills and imagination better if they can do the work. It's okay if it looks like a child made it!
- If you plan a group project, choose a simpler craft and put each person's individual small supplies or cutouts in a plastic bag.
- Stay near the socializer as they want attention and let the analyzers be further away from others as they like space. Let the child who likes to direct/teach help with passing out supplies.
- Let children choose to adapt the craft. Encourage the creativity.
- Precut extra materials for anyone who makes a mistake or loses a piece.

### **Develop your child's artistic sense**

- <https://christianchildrensauthors.com/2017/03/29/developing-your-childs-artistic-sense/>

### **Displays and Memory Keeping Tips**

We can't keep everything a child makes, so keep these ideas in mind while crafting.

- Take a photo of each project to keep.
- For projects on flat paper, staples a bunch together to make a book. Place that in a folder and they can keep it as an art album in a bookcase.
- Let them decorate a box as an art treasure box to hold their favorite projects. Remind them that if it gets full they will have to get rid of an older craft for a new one to fit. It will be time to say farewell to something.
- Let them give away some projects to loved ones.
- Let them have one or two items on the refrigerator and replace it when they have something new they want up.