



Drawing with your children at an early age can have long term benefits. I am a HUGE proponent of drawing with young children for the following reasons.

Drawing With Your Young Child Can:

1. Build strong fine motor skills
2. Produce quality time and memories with your child
3. Create charming conversations with your child
4. Relax you and your child
5. Teach your child colors and shapes
6. Prepare your child for “drawing” **proper letter strokes** that will lead them to comfortable and confident writing, which leads to reading.
7. Foster a child that likes to draw independently while you’re cooking, having quiet time, etc.

Getting Started

Have a box of markers and white copy paper on hand.

Steps to Drawing With Young Children

1. Scribble on paper.

Around 24 months, begin allowing your child to scribble on paper 1-2 times per week. This will only last several minutes each time.



2. Slow down.

Teach your child to slow down. As your toddler gets used to scribbling and scrabbling, show your child how to draw slow scribbles as if you’re coloring in a section of the paper. Again, this will only last a few minutes each time.



3. Draw circles.

Around 2 1/2, start drawing circles. Draw several counterclockwise circles on a piece of paper. Then, gently take your child’s hand and guide it to draw a circle. Start at the top and move the marker *counterclockwise* to foster **proper letter strokes** for later.

Turn the circle into a sun. Draw the circle. Have your child add the rays.



Turn the circle into a smiley face. Draw the circle. Add a smiley face naming “eye, eye, nose, mouth, hair.” The child will surely smile at your drawing! Have fun with it! Have your child try to draw one.





4. Draw Side by Side

Sit side by side. Make sure you and your child each have your own marker and drawing paper or space. Draw and talk about what you are drawing. Have your child try to draw the same line. Step by step, line by line, complete simple pictures.

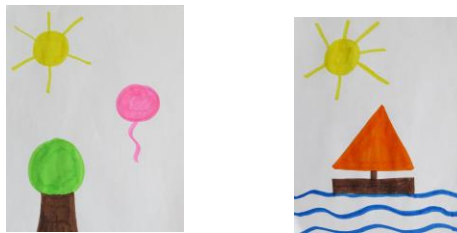
A week before my daughter's 3rd birthday, we drew a sun, a balloon and a bear. Her drawings weren't exact. They weren't supposed to be! It was a start and she loved doing it!



When you see that your child is getting tired or uninterested, put the materials away and continue another day.

5. Draw shapes.

Around age 3, begin drawing shapes. Then, turn the shapes into something. Name the shape each time you draw one. Over time, continue with squares, ovals and diamonds.



5. Free draw.

Give your child ample time to draw and color freely. Ask your child to talk about what he or she is drawing. Free draw yourself and talk about what you are drawing. Store their drawings in plastic page protectors and place them in a binder.

A Great Investment of Time

Taking the time to draw with your child at an early age has so many benefits! Not only do you create fond memories, but you also help your child build strong motor skills, vocabulary and imagination.

As a result of this quality time, children also grow to draw independently. This becomes especially important when you want your child to enjoy something other than screen time while you're cooking, working, putting younger children to bed, etc.

When it comes time to draw in birthday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents' cards, these children are usually able and eager.

Above all, children who have the patience and fine motor strength to draw pictures, typically have the focus and stamina to "draw" letters and eventually write words, sentences and stories! These children often grow to be comfortable and confident writers all the way through school and on into their careers. Drawing with your young child, can truly have long term benefits!