



TOY GUIDE SHEET

Art Materials

*Basic art materials are an important part of a broad range of **school readiness skills**. These art materials should be used under an adult's supervision, but remember that the time that you spend with your child is invaluable to your child's later school success. Scribbling is an essential part of both **writing and reading readiness**.*

*Exploring art materials fascinates young children and sparks their imagination, which will encourage the use of **language**, an important **early literacy skill**. The final product that your child makes is not important. It is the process, the exploration, and the conversation that will help your child's **cognitive growth** and **sense of competency**, which is an important part of **social-emotional growth**.*

REMEMBER TO:

1. Try to sit with your child between you and your Early Learning Specialist.
2. Place the toy on the floor or surface and invite your child to explore.
3. Follow your child's lead as much as you can.
4. Allow your child to do as much as he or she can do on his/her own. If your child becomes frustrated, help him or her.
5. Listen and respond to your child as he or she plays.

Name and encourage your child to name:

- **Labels:** drawing paper, crayons, watercolors, paintbrush, water, cup
- **Colors:** brown, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black
- **Shapes and sizes:** square box, triangular crayon, oval pan, long case, large sheet of paper
- **Numbers:** How many crayons are in the box? Count with me—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. Let's count how many fingers you have. Count with me—one, two, three, four, five.
- **Textures:** smooth paper, waxy crayon, hard case
- **Cause and effect:** If you mix blue and yellow together, you get green.
- **Spatial relationships:** Let's draw on the paper. Let's put the crayons inside the box.

Describe your actions and encourage your child to describe his or her actions:

- **General:** Let's take all the crayons out of the box and see what colors you have.
- **Matching:** Can you match the red crayon with the red watercolor?
- **Fitting:** The crayons fit inside the box.
- **Sounds:** The water makes a sound when you mix it with the paintbrush.

Remind your child to think about what he or she is doing:

- **To pay attention to the activity:** Can you draw a line like this?
- **To make a choice:** Do you want to use the crayons or the watercolors first?
- **To have self-control:** If you're not careful, you might spill the water.
- **To remember other experiences:** Have you ever used watercolors?
- **To do things in order:** First we could draw pictures with the crayons and then we can paint over them with watercolors.

For more fun with your child:

- Encourage your child to tear pieces of paper to make a collage.
- Take turns tracing each other's hands and feet.

Remember throughout the home visit to:

ENCOURAGE your child to talk.

PRAISE your child.

ASK your child questions.

HELP your child when needed.

LISTEN to your child's answers.

RESPOND to your child's answers.

Have fun! Show your child how much you enjoy playing together.

**** Make art a regular part of playtime. ****