

# Tips for Creating Art



*With Children*

(From *Guidelines for Open-ended Art*, ©2005 Cathy Abraham)

## During the Process

- Never alter or “fix” a child’s work
- Emphasize the process, not the end product
- Don’t ask “What is it?”; Say “Tell me about it.”
- Do not do models or samples for the children
- Let children come up with their own ideas and use materials creatively
- Encourage children to express feelings and personal experiences through art
- Children should be doing their own cutting – it’s OK if a circle doesn’t remotely resemble a circle yet. This is how they develop these fine muscles – makes it ‘their’ work and experience.
- Let the children be as independent as possible, and encourage self-help skills and responsibility in cleaning up

## How to Respond to Your Children’s Artwork

- Say something very specific about the artwork, instead of something general like “That’s beautiful!”

Examples of specific responses:

- “I see circles in your picture”
- “Do you have a story you want to tell me about your picture?”
- “I can see you worked hard on that.”
- “Tell me about how you made the blue lines so smooth.”
- “I feel happy when I look at your picture. The colors are very bright.”