

Ways to encourage your child with their art.

The best way to support your child is to encourage their creativity. Creativity is how children approach the world in order to learn about it and to learn about themselves. It is how they express the way that they are feeling and how they share themselves with the world around them. This allows them to learn how to communicate their feelings and to be happy with what those feelings are and it gives them an appropriate outlet for sharing their fears and worries and dreams.

Make arts opportunities available to your child. Encourage your child to draw where there are opportunities to do so both inside and making use of the outside environment. There are quite often one off events at many attractions such as the Thelma Hulbert Gallery and The Eden Project.



Praise the process not the product. Sometimes learning takes place during the making of a piece of art and not the end product. It could be that the final product is not aesthetically pleasing, but your child has still learnt a lot about the process.

Never force your child to stick with an art form that they don't like. Encouraging your child is very important, but if they do not like drawing, try encouraging them to use paint instead or another media. It needs to be enjoyable for you and your child

Encourage the enjoyment of arts technology. Let your children play with the old digital camera; teach them how to do some basic design on the computer and let them know that art and technology can be combined in a fun way.

Ask your child questions. Ask her what s/he thinks about life. When s/he asks you why the sky is blue, ask her what she thinks first. This gives children the chance to use their imaginations.

Use the internet. There are some lovely websites that have activities for children.

National Gallery
The Tate
RAMM (Royal Albert Memorial Museum)

Local places to visit:

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Honiton

The gallery often has family days in the holidays, where everyone can get involved in art work, including Mum and Dad!

Spacex Gallery, Exeter

There is a Saturday club that takes place weekly for enthusiastic artists.

