

## Creative Art for Kids

If one phrase could sum up art for young children, it would be:  
"It's the process, not the product."

Young children, unlike adults, typically aren't all that interested in what the final product looks like. They're more interested in the act of mixing colors, the feeling of cool clay squishing between their fingers, or using scissors for the first time. If a child is able to explore art on their own, we call it "open art."

Craft activities, or closed art projects, emphasize the look of the final product. Closed art often has an example, includes lengthy directions, or requires skills, like precise cutting or gluing, that children may not be able to accomplish on their own. These projects offer experience with fine motor skills and processes and patterns, however, closed art does not require as much creative thinking.

### What you can do:

While you provide materials and time, allow your child to explore the materials and problem solve on their own.

### Books:

*Everyday Art For Kids: Projects to Unlock Creativity*, Carolyn Holm  
*Scribble Art*, Mary Ann F. Kohl

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