



When your child brings home his or her first art masterpiece it can be difficult to know the right words to use—words that will encourage and inspire without over praising or making personal judgments based on your own preferences. We would like to share some ideas with you about how to encourage the artist within your child.

## For Additional Information

Reference materials:

*Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*  
by Betty Edwards

*Children as Illustrators*  
by Susan Thompson

*The Visual Arts & Early Childhood Learning*  
by Christine Thompson

*Young at Art*  
by Susan Striker

**We offer private art lessons.**



**Ask about the private art lessons offered at Kinderplatz of Fine Arts.**



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## Art Talk

### Knowing The Right Thing To Say

PARENT EDUCATION SERIES

# Talking with Children About Art...

## Talking with Children About **Color**

You can talk with children about Primary colors: red, yellow and blue; secondary colors: orange, violet and green; warm colors: reds, yellows and oranges; pastel colors, bright colors, cool colors and muted shades. Your words can help children explain what colors they have used in their paintings.

## Talking with Children About **Rhythm**

Rhythm is the movement of design in an artwork that is often developed by repeated shapes, lines, colors or patterns. You might say, "These strokes make your art look like it is moving." Words such as "rolling," "flowing," "dripping," or "hopping" might be used.

## Talking with Children About **Texture**

Texture refers to the quality of the surface, both tactile and visual, implied or actual. You might say to a child, "How did you make your painting look so 'rough' or 'smooth?'" or, "What did you use to make this part look shiny?"

## Talking with Children About **Lines**

Lines can be horizontal, vertical, wavy, balanced or unbalanced. Lines sometimes look as if they have a rhythm. You might say, "Those lines are wavy—how did you do that?"

## Talking with Children About **Creativity**

- "Tell me about your art."
- "You made circles in your painting."
- "I can see light in your picture."
- "You used pastel colors in your art."
- "There are many shapes in your art."
- "You made such thick strokes."
- "Those colors are so warm."
- "You used so many strokes in this part."
- "I see thin lines."
- "You have used wiggly lines."
- "Your painting looks so shiny."

Follow any of these statements with, "How did you do that?" and you are sure to encourage and ignite a passion for art!

## **Freedom of Expression**

The beginning stages of art involve processes, experimentation and freedom of expression in the conception of the piece and in the use of materials. At times your children may come up with their own ideas and other times they may be inspired by what is happening around them.

If you take the time to talk with your children about their art, we are sure you will hear all kinds of stories that will add meaning to each piece. When you talk with your children about their work in this way, we are certain you will foster an appreciation and a passion for art.

