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## **Common Myths About Arts and Crafts For Kids**

**By Chris Peace**

Children and art seem to go together easily. At a young age, children will start drawing without any prompting at all. They just find a pencil or crayon and start doodling on whatever material is available. Unfortunately, too many times the adults around them make the mistake of stunting the development of their love of drawing because they believe a few common myths associated with arts and crafts for kids.

Myth 1: Real artists are born not made.

While there's no arguing that some people just have an easier time mastering arts and crafts for kids, that doesn't mean everyone can't improve their art skills. Your child may not be the next Picasso but he or she can enjoy the wonders of drawing and of using imagination to capture a whole new perspective on the world using nothing but some colored pencils and a sketchbook.

Some people try to discourage their children from drawing if they don't seem to have this so-called natural gift. But that's a disservice to the child who can still enjoy and benefit from these arts and crafts for kids.

Myth 2: Art has no practical value.

One of the most damaging myths of today is the idea that nothing useful can be gained from arts and crafts for kids with the exception of keeping little ones from getting into trouble and for giving peace. The truth is that research now indicates that's not the case.

With arts and crafts for kids, the future benefits can be enormous even for children who don't pursue artistic endeavors. By working with arts and crafts for kids, children can improve their fine motor skills, eye hand coordination, dexterity, patience, attention to detail, and other assets. They can also learn how to be creative which is a skill now recognized as vital to intelligence, problem solving, and business success.

When you give children arts and crafts for kids, you give them the tools they need to unlock hidden potential which, sadly, may not be cultivated into today's standardized test crazed school systems.

Myth 3: Art is either right or wrong.

In the world of arts and crafts for kids, there is no such thing as right and wrong. If you are allowing a child to be free with his or her imagination, you can't impose rules on the creativity. If a child draws a pink cow, the art is not wrong nor does it necessarily mean the young artist has no concept of a cow's real color. Such examples from arts and crafts for kids should open up a dialogue about the meaning of the produced art and the inspiration for the unusual color choice.

Myth 4: Drawing is only for children.

The truth is that most adults, including those who are parents, could benefit from enjoying arts and crafts for kids right alongside their children. Most of us could use a little boost in our creative juices and a chance to let our imaginations run wild, at least temporarily.

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## Arts and Crafts For Kids in Daycares & Schools

By Chris Peace

Although most parents are the ones who provide their children with the arts and crafts for kids, there are other places where these useful tools can also be found. For example, children may get some valuable time with these tools at the babysitter's house or in kindergarten. If you are running any type of facility for children whether you're watching them for parents or educating them or both, you should definitely consider adding more arts and crafts for kids. Below are several great reasons to make this change.

### Boredom Free

One thing you never want when you're working with children is for them to become bored. That's when the trouble starts. Of course, you also don't want them to be running around a playground or sitting in front of a television all day either. By giving them arts and crafts for kids you can provide both mental and physical stimulation in one package. You can have complete control of the arts and crafts for kids they receive so you can take precautions to keep your home or facility from being destroyed by paint or markers (colored pencils are a good alternative).

At the end of the day, the children can return to their parents with some nice artwork or finished craft projects which makes everyone happy.

### Learning Potential

While most people think arts and crafts for kids are all about fun, they can also be very useful for real learning. For example, if you give each child a handy sketchbook and some colored pencils you could end up with the tools for learning. Here's an example. If you want to work on the alphabet, draw a letter on a whiteboard where all of the kids can see it. Don't say the letter but ask all of the kids to draw a picture of a thing that starts with that letter. If you had an S on the board, for instance, the kids might draw a snake or a stereo.

Another idea for a learning activity using arts and crafts for kids is to ask the children to create a visual interpretation of a math problem. For example, if you want the kids to find the answer to "2 + 2" then have them draw a picture to help them. The child might draw two ice cream cones and two dogs then can count the pictures and know the answer is four.

### Alternative Activities

Having arts and crafts for kids is also a good idea if you want to make alternative activities for some kids. Not all children will want to do the same things at the same time. For example, some kids may want to watch a DVD before nap time, other children may want to play games, but some prefer quiet time alone. Having arts and crafts for kids is a good way to meet the needs of multiple kids at the same time.

### Meeting the Needs of Children

Having arts and crafts for kids at home, at care facilities, and at schools is an important way to

encourage creativity in children and to inspire good behavior.

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