



## Children and Colors

Many parents talk to their children about color. They ask their children to show them the red block or the blue ball. Parents are proud when their children learn their colors. Children enjoy learning about colors. And it is good for them to learn those things. It will help them with many things they do.

Some children might have a special interest in colors. Some children might become artists. Others might become designers. Or maybe your child will just learn how to choose the right shirt to go with a pair of pants.

### 1. Start slowly

- Teach your child one color at a time. Teach him, “This is red. This is not red.” That is easier than learning all the colors at the same time.
- Talk about colors when you take a walk or go to the store. Ask your child to point to green things or brown things.
- Let your child choose her own clothes to wear. When she is very young, you can pick out the clothes for her to choose from. Talk about the colors that go together.

### 2. Talk about the child’s projects

- **Listen**— Ask your child to tell you about the pictures and projects he is making. Ask how he is using the different colors. Listen and ask questions.
- **Participate**— Make something with your child. Tell your child about the colors you like and why you like them.

### 3. Provide materials

- **Art supplies**— Children need a chance to create things. They should have many colors to choose from. Some good art supplies are crayons, markers, pens, paints, clay, chalk, stickers, fabric, paper, stamps and ink pads, scissors, tape, and glue.

- **Learning about color**— Give your child some supplies that teach her about color. Some supplies should let her mix colors to learn how colors change when mixed.
- **Books**— Find books for your child about color. There are books that teach children to do projects, books about color, and about artists and their art.

#### 4. Don't be afraid of art supplies

- **Keep all of the art supplies together**— Find a box or crate to keep art supplies. Let your child know that you need to be there when she uses them.
- **Find a good place to do art activities**— Find a place with a table. It is good to be close to water. It should be OK to spill things there. It also is good to have a place to put projects before they are finished.
- **Protect clothing**— If your child is using paint or ink, find or make a smock. An old shirt can work well to cover clothes. An old sheet can cover the floor. It is good if the child doesn't need to worry about stains while he is making things.

*Source:*

Beaty, J. J. (1994). *Observing Development of the Young Child*. (pp. 211-265). Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc.

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