

## Art materials for infants and toddlers: What's safe, what's not

Make sure all commercial art supplies have the Art and Creative Materials Institute (ACMI) "AP" (Approved Product) seal.

Unsafe art materials	The problem	Safe art materials
Art materials that are not in original containers; art materials without proper labels	Unknown list of ingredients	Art materials with "AP" label
Commercial or cold-water dyes	Contain chemicals that may be harmful to children.	Natural dyes made from vegetables or fruits or food-safe dyes
Glazes, paints, or finishes that contain lead	Contain heavy metals	Water-based paints with "AP" label
Glitter	May cause eye injury for children who rub their eyes	
Instant papier-mâché	May contain lead or asbestos	Newspaper (black ink only) and white paste
Paints that require solvents such as turpentine to clean the brushes	Contain heavy metals or harmful chemicals	Water-based paints with "AP" label
Peanut butter or nuts	May cause allergic reaction in children with nut allergies; nuts may be a choking hazard for young children.	
Permanent markers	May emit fumes that contain formaldehyde and ammonia	Washable water-based markers with "AP" label

Unsafe art materials	The problem	Safe art materials
Powdered clay	Dust may be harmful to children’s lungs and eyes	Pre-mixed clay with “AP” label; homemade play dough made from ingredients such as flour, salt, water, vegetable oil, cornstarch, and food-safe coloring
Powdered tempera paints	Dust may be harmful to children’s lungs and eyes	Pre-mixed water-based paints with “AP” label
Rubber cement, and other adhesives and glues which are not water-based	Can emit fumes that contain formaldehyde and ammonia	White glue with “AP” label
Scented markers	May contain hormone-disrupting chemicals called phthalates	Washable water-based markers with “AP” label
Shaving cream	Fumes from aerosol may be harmful	
Small objects, such as craft “eyes,” packing peanuts, beads, etc.	Small objects may be a choking hazard for young children who put non-edible items in their mouths.	
Spray paints	Fumes from aerosol may be harmful	
Uncooked beans or seeds	Small objects may be a choking hazard for young children who put non-edible items in their mouths; raw kidney beans are toxic to children and adults	