

Make Art Together

When making art or talking about art with kids, it's important to focus on the process rather than the product. Instead of asking "what is it?" start with your own observations and open-ended invitations to talk about their work. To help kids reflect on their creative process, narrate your own decision-making while making art alongside them. Share your considerations and frustrations while you work, and ask for your child's advice and input along the way.

Here are some of our favorite conversation starters for talking with children about their art.

- Tell me about your artwork!
- How did you make it?
- What materials did you use to make this?
- What name would you give this artwork?
- I notice you used a lot of _____. Tell me about that choice.
- How did you choose to _____? What other choices did you make?
- It seems like you worked so hard on _____.
- What's something you like about your artwork?
- What was the hardest part of making your art?
- What were you thinking about while you made your artwork?
- Your artwork makes me feel _____. Does it give you any feelings?
- I see that my artwork has _____ and your artwork has _____.
- Your artwork reminds me of _____.

Albie's Favorite Art Supplies

- Thick paper like cardstock
- Gluesticks and school glue
- Masking tape and clear tape
- Recycled materials like paper towel rolls, cottonballs, bubble wrap, foil, cereal boxes
- Washable markers or crayons
- Tempura sticks or paint
- Watercolor paint
- Oil pastels





Express Yourself

Albie learns to navigate and talk about her feelings when she experiences new things, with the support of the grown-ups around her. You can do the same at home.

- **Start with you:** Model ways of communicating feelings by expressing how you feel. Then ask your child if they have feelings to share.
- **Encourage artistic expression:** Sometimes we don't feel like talking and that's okay. Is there another way your child can think of to express themselves? (drawing their feelings, expressing themselves through sound or exploring their feelings through imaginative play with a toy)

A Note on Mess

It's okay to not want a mess! It can be intimidating to envision a paint mess in your home. Creative play and art exploration can happen with all kinds of materials. Foil sculptures, post-it note mosaics, tape train tracks and drawing materials of all kinds are great low-mess art activities. Incorporate messy materials like glue and paint in small amounts and don't be afraid to make art outside too!