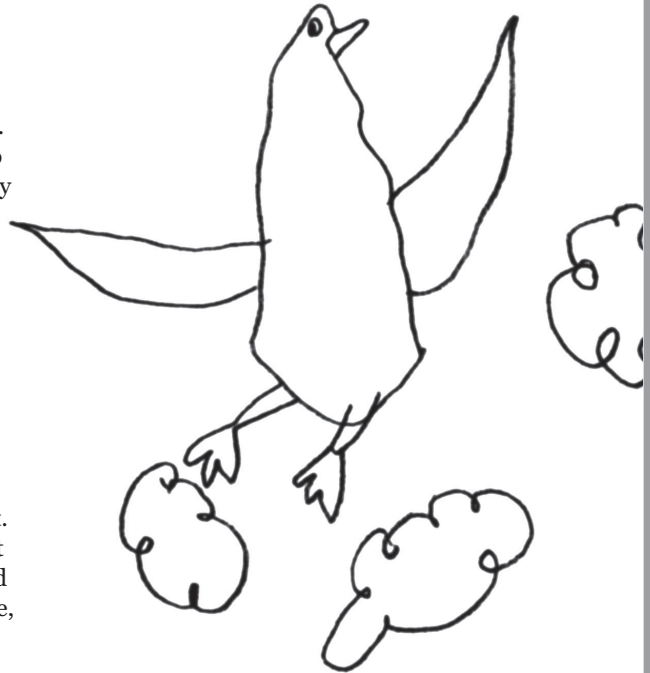


What Art is Not

Art is not coloring books or mimeo sheets. Art is not copying or coloring between the lines. Art is not restrictive. To be art, a work has to demonstrate individuality. I like to distinguish between “fine art and applied art”—another way of saying “arts and crafts.” Both fine and applied arts can demonstrate individuality. If a child’s painting or Treasure Box looks like everyone else’s, then there’s no creativity or imagination involved. What’s the quickest way to tell if it’s art? If a child can’t recognize which project is his at the end of the day, it’s not art!

Parent Involvement

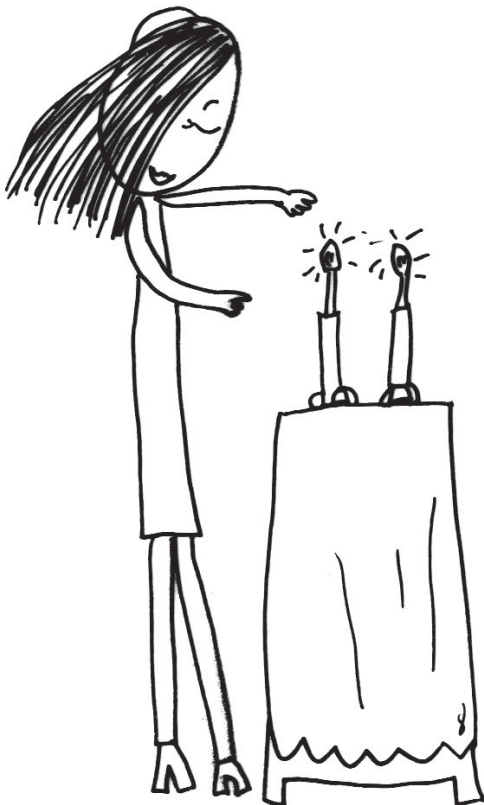
Research shows that parent involvement in their child’s education is positively related to learning and achievement. How can parents nurture children’s creativity at home? Art can be a wonderful family activity. Parents who understand the value of art are more likely to keep art supplies at home, designate a household area for “messy art,” and become involved in art themselves. Parents and teachers working together to nurture creativity—imagine the possibilities!



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Questions? Email
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Art is Communication ~ Art is Self-Expression ~ Art is Creative Energy ~ Art is Seeing



Encouraging Creativity

- Take time with a child’s art.
- Show respect for the art and the artist’s process.
- Comment on lines, shapes and colors: “I see you used three colors.”
- Show curiosity: “How did you get this effect here?”
- Comment on changes: “Your drawings look bigger these days.”
- Ask open-ended questions: “Will you tell me about your picture?”
- Provide fuel for creativity: “What other materials do you need?”
- Collect recycled boxes, tubes, and lumber scraps. Make 3-D creations.
- Provide a variety of drawing, painting, and clay materials.
- Avoid coloring books.