

5 Strategies Cheat Sheet

HOW TO PAINT WITH YOUR PRESCHOOLER TO MAXIMIZE CREATIVITY AND MINIMIZE MESS

1

CHOOSE OPEN-ENDED PAINTING ACTIVITIES

- Open ended activities focus on the process of creating the painting rather than the final artwork.
- Open-ended activities have no right or wrong way to create the project.
- The activity is child led rather than adult directed.

2

INCORPORATE YOUR CHILD'S INTERESTS

- What does your child like to do?
- What is your child's favorite toy or activity?
- Use these answers to help plan a painting activity that will engage your child.

3

PROTECT YOUR WORKSPACE

- Use plastic trays or cookie sheets to contain paint and paper.
- Plastic tablecloths or old shower curtains work great as a drop cloth
- Use washable paint (yes, it really does make a difference in cleaning up)

4

ASK, LISTEN, AND OBSERVE

- Ask your child open-ended questions to prompt their thinking.
- Actively listen to what your child has to say.
- Observe what your child likes and did not like to plan for future activities.

5

PRAISE YOUR CHILD'S EFFORT

- Avoid phrases like "good job" and "that's beautiful"
- Say specific praise like "Wow, you worked hard on that painting" or "Look at all those different colors you used"
- Praising your child's effort fosters a growth mind set or a "I can" type of thinking for your child.