

ART MATERIALS BY AGE

When it comes to choosing art materials for children, it's important to consider their age and developmental stage. Here are some tips to help you choose appropriate art materials for children of different ages:

Infants and toddlers (0-2 years): At this age, children are still developing their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. They enjoy exploring different textures and colors. Some appropriate art materials for this age group include non-toxic finger paints, large crayons, and soft modeling clay.

At this age it is easiest to stick with one medium for children to explore.

Example: set out fingerpaints and let them express themselves with different colors and different surfaces such as thick paper, paper plates etc.

Preschoolers (3-5 years): Children in this age group are more confident in their abilities and enjoy experimenting with different art materials. They enjoy creating art that is more representational and may start to use scissors and glue. Some appropriate art materials for this age group include washable markers, watercolors, construction paper, and play dough.

At this age try to limit the choices to 2-3 project styles.

Example: set up a collage station, a drawing station, and a watercolor station. Have someone working with the children at each station.

School-age children (6-12 years): Children in this age group have developed more advanced fine motor skills and enjoy creating more complex artwork. They may be interested in learning new techniques. Some appropriate art materials for this age group include acrylic paints, oil pastels, colored pencils, and canvas.

Typically, children at this age are good with choices. For those who have not been exposed to art, it's best to give a short demonstration of each medium before they select what they want to work with. A slide show of examples can help, too.

It's important to note that these are just general guidelines, and every child is different. Be sure to supervise children when they are using art materials to ensure their safety.

